

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

Vol. LVIII.]

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Epitome	225
Leading Articles:—	
The Situation at Peking	226
Affairs in the North	226
The Currency Question	227
Hongkong Naval Dockyard	227
Hongkong Sanitary Board	227
Hongkong Chamber of Commerce	228
Arrival of the Chinese Minister to Japan	229
The Wave of Crime in Hongkong	229
The Sunk Chinese Cruiser	229
Piracy in Chinese Waters	230
Ordination at the Cathedral	230
Volunteer Promenade Concert	230
Theatre Royal	230
Notes from the Botanic Gardens	230
Mr. R. Shewan and the Dockyard Question	231
Canton	231
Macao	232
Pakhoi	232
Yunnan	232
Hsianfu	232
Correspondence	233
Supreme Court	233
Sporting Notes	235
Cricket	235
The V.R.C. Aquatic Sports	236
Queen's College Sports	236
Hongkong Football Club	236
A Rival to the Pacific Mail	236
Robbery at Vladivostok	236
Hongkong	237
Miscellaneous	238
Commercial	238
Shipping	240

BIRTHS.

On the 9th September, at Yokohama, the wife of C. J. WHITNEY, of a daughter.
On the 13th September, at Wuhu, the wife of R. D. WATT, of a son.
On the 15th September, at 80, Kyo-machi, Kobe, the wife of LEVINE WILLIAMS, of a son.
On the 16th September, at No. 1, Sungkiang Road, Shanghai, the wife of GEORGE MCBAIN, of a son.
On the 16th September, at "Shamrock," Kampong Java Road, Singapore, the wife of A. PODMORE-WILLIAMS, of a daughter.
On the 17th September, at S. Thomas's Walk, Singapore, the wife of Rev. E. G. EVANS, of a son and daughter.
On the 22nd September, at "Calder," MacDonnell Road, the wife of J. MOWBRAY JONES, of a son.
On the 24th September, at "The Cottage," the wife of EDWARD A. RAM, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

On the 11th September, at the French Hospital, Bangkok, H. GRACE, aged 35 years.
On the 12th September, at Bangkok, Captain PAUL PANNENBERG, Chief River Inspector, Harbour Master's Department.
On the 15th September, at No. 15, Burmah Road, Singapore, LIZARDA, the widow of the late THOMAS AUGUSTINE D'CRUZ.
On the 16th September, at the Victoria Nursing Home, JANE DONALDSON, of Shanghai.
On the 16th September, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, CARL J. THORBOE.
On the 16th September, at 9, Woosung Road, Shanghai, JOHN BARNES, only child of JOHN HENRY and ELLEN CORA NIGHTINGALE, of I. M. Customs, Wenchow, aged one year.
On the 18th September, at his residence, No. 44, Caine Road, A. A. H. BOTELH.
On the 21st September, at Kowloon Docks, E. J. MAIN, Supt. Engineer, aged 57 years.
At No. 9, Lloyd Road, Singapore, IDA LEONORA, daughter of FREDERICA and GRACE D'ALMEIDA, aged 5 years and 2 months.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VOUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The *America Maru* with the American Mail of the 26th ult. arrived on the 23rd inst. (28 days); and the *P. & O. Coromandel* with the English Mail of the 28th ult. arrived on the 24th inst. (27 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

H. E. Yang Chu, new Chinese Minister to Japan, passed through on his way to Canton on the 22nd-23rd inst.

Japanese papers announce that the standing squadron consists now of twelve battleships and twelve torpedo-boat destroyers.

The *N. C. Daily News* gathers that there is a very good chance of Yuan Shu-hsin retaining the Shanghai taotaihip for some months yet.

The Chamber of Commerce of Saigon is stated to have inaugurated a movement to induce the French Government to lay a cable from Saigon to Manila.

The sensational Peak shooting affair concluded at the Hongkong Criminal Sessions on the 21st inst., Vincenz, who shot and wounded a chair-coolie on the 3rd inst., being sentenced to one year's imprisonment.

Mr. W. R. D. Beckett was expected at Bangkok about the 18th inst. to take up the position of H.B.M. Consul at Bangkok. Mr. C. E. W. Stringer was to leave about the time of Mr. Beckett's arrival to take up the post of Consul at Chiangmai.

H. E. Shum, Viceroy of the two Kwang provinces is expected back in Canton in about a week's time. This may be taken as auguring well for the progress of the Imperialist campaign in Kwangsi; but authentic news of the operations is unprocureable.

The *Universal Gazette* says that in response to the summons from Peking ordering Wu Ting-fang to proceed to the capital, the Chinese treaty commissioners wired back to the Throne asking that Wu might be excused from starting at once, owing to the fact that the new American treaty has not yet been completed.

Mr. Shuster, Insular Collector of the Philippines, has filed a brief in the case of Mr. Frank Allen, who recently went out as expert accountant to the Chartered Bank and was refused admittance by the U. S. Customs authorities as being a contract labourer within the meaning of the laws of the United States.

The Philippines Commission has already appropriated from its current funds \$5,500,000 in United States currency for the purchase of bullion and alloy for the new coinage, and it has now been decided to establish a fund of three millions of the new pesos for the future purchase of bullion, and so obviate the necessity of making further appropriations for this purpose.

The *N. C. Daily News* quotes a Canton letter announcing the death by decapitation of Chan King-wa. But that ex-official has, nevertheless, been in Hongkong, with his head on, not two days ago.

Rumours are plentiful that Viceroy Chang Chih-tung will not return to Wuohang, and he is even said to have expressed his desire to give up the Hukuang viceroyalty. The only difficulty is to find him a post at Peking worthy of his merit, such as the presidency of some Board. The present Acting Viceroy of the Hukuang provinces is reported to be most anxious to obtain the substantive appointment if Chang Chih-tung does not return.

It is reported from Peking, says the *N. C. Daily News*, that the Waiwupu recently received a telegraphic dispatch from H. E. Hu Wei-tê, Chinese Minister at St. Petersburg, to the effect that he has learned from a reliable source that the Japanese Government has lately come to a secret understanding with Russia, in which China is to be made the scapegoat, and suffer to an extent which the Chinese Government cannot for the moment properly imagine.

It is well known that the Russian squadron now mobilised in North Asiatic waters has received great reinforcements from Europe, but the extent of the fleet is not definitely known. Some of the Japanese vernacular papers give the strength of the squadron as consisting of nine battleships, with an aggregate tonnage of 110,232, and five armoured cruisers representing 49,016 tons. Their armament amounts altogether to 217 heavy guns and 570 smaller guns, with 69 torpedoes.

A *Government Gazette Extraordinary* published on the 21st inst. notified that vessels from Hongkong and Canton carrying no Chinese deck passengers, and having no contagious disease on board, will not be subjected to the medical inspection at Wo-sung, provided that the doctor of such ship files a certificate with the Commissioner of Customs at Shanghai immediately on arrival that no case of contagious disease is on such ship. Vessels arriving at Saigon from Hongkong without passengers, but with non-prohibited merchandise only, have free pratique immediately upon arrival after inspection by the Sanitary authorities.

The *N. C. Daily News* quotes the experiences of a traveller who has just made the journey from Moscow by the Siberian line in 15 days. Unlike recent passengers in the homeward direction, he made a most rapid and successful trip, and found the trains much more comfortable than on the trans-continental lines of America. The train was the ordinary express, and not a *Wagon-Lits*, but was beautifully equipped. It was the first to get through after the recent floods, which had washed away the metals for three short stretches in Manchuria. These damages were due to the fact that the line as yet has not been permanently laid, stone bridges are in process of erection in many places, and embankments are being strengthened. The floods have now subsided. If Russian troops are being hurried along the line in great number, their movements are being kept wonderfully quiet, scarcely a soldier being seen the whole way. From Moscow to Dalny took thirteen days and five hours, and as the steamer left Dalny within four hours of the arrival of the train, the through trip to Shanghai was made in what is about record time.

THE SITUATION AT PEKING.

(Daily Press, 21st September.)

The insincerity of the professions made by the Empress Dowager in favour of progress and reform on her return to Peking from her voluntary exile to the North-west has quickly been demonstrated. On the principle, no doubt, quaintly embodied in the lines—

The Devil was sick, the Devil a monk would be;
The Devil was well, the Devil a monk was he—
Her Majesty probably thought it might, on her reappearance in the capital, be well to take a little Western Reform physic, and at first, while in a state of nervous insecurity, she may have fancied the medicine agreed with her. But now that she has regained confidence, and feels that her feet are once more on solid ground, she is ready to throw physic to the dogs, and resume with all fervour the autocratic rule so congenial to her tyrannical spirit. For some time previous the Empress Dowager had been showing that she was impatient of criticism, and upon the arrest and trial of the reformer SHEN KE-WEI she openly threw off the mask, and came out again in her true colours. Nothing short of a most vindictive punishment for the unfortunate man could satisfy her desire for vengeance, and she accordingly decreed that a sentence should be passed which, while without precedent, was most barbarous and cruel. The wretched man was savagely beaten to death in prison on the direct instructions of this savage woman, whom the Powers, in a moment of equal imbecility and weakness, allowed to return to Peking to again set back the clock of progress and probably hatch new projects for driving out the hated foreigner from the Celestial Empire. She has not been long showing her true spirit: after first cleverly imposing upon the ladies of the Legations, and to their lasting shame inducing them to accept gifts from her blood-stained hands, she has gradually developed all her old predilections and has set herself to check all tendency to progress, to undo all efforts in the direction of reform. Among other achievements of the kind, the latest act of the Empress Dowager has been to veto the scheme of the Viceroy CHANG CHI-HUNG and CHANG PEI-HSI, the Chancellor of the Peking University, to abolish the literary examinations after the old style of competition, and has made it exceedingly plain to those officials that she will never allow such an innovation. On the contrary, secret instructions will, it is said, be given to the examiners to bestow the *Hsiu'sai* and *Chujen* degrees upon those only who show in their essays a desire closely to adhere to the old order of things. The examiners have been selected from the ranks of the reactionaries, and may be trusted to carry out the Imperial orders. Conscious, however, that as the Emperor is still alive and representing the TA-TSING dynasty, she keeps up a pretence of still intending to retire when she has put the Imperial house in order and blotted out the Reformers. She plays her part, it must be admitted, with great cleverness, and succeeds in hoodwinking most of the officials if she does not entirely impose on the Emperor and his friends. So far the Emperor has been content to accept the role of imbecile, and his energetic aunt is therefore not afraid of him, but there must be an end of this by-and-by. The Emperor's friends will ere long begin to grow weary of waiting for an emancipation that never comes, and the spirit of progress which the Empress Dowager fondly thinks she has stifled will break out the more strongly for being repressed and kept down. Meantime, however, there is said to be

danger of a further outbreak against foreigners at Peking. The reactionaries have been greatly encouraged by the attitude assumed by the Empress Dowager and her creatures, and the reappearance of Prince TUAN and others in the capital is regarded with uneasiness by those who watch developments there. It is true the Legations are fortified and guarded, and that garrisons of foreign soldiers are still maintained, but if the foreign-drilled native troops are only properly equipped and led, it would go hardly with the foreign representatives if another *coup d'état* were to be resolved upon by the Empress or the Palace favourites. It may not actually be, as some writers seem to think, that the Ministers are living on the crust of a volcano, but it is at least certain that there is a sense of unrest and inquiet in the Chinese metropolis, which is accentuated with every fresh snub administered by the Empress to CHANG CHI-HUNG and the advocates of a policy of progress. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the Foreign Ministers will not live in a fools' paradise, but that they will keep a smart watch on the movements of the anti-foreign party in the Government, and, if necessary, demand the banishment of suspicious characters. The memory of the events of 1900 is still too fresh in the minds of foreigners for them to put much faith either in the good intentions or the goodwill of the majority of the Chinese or Manchu officials.

AFFAIRS IN THE NORTH.

(Daily Press, 23rd September.)

To a great extent affairs in the North may be said to have come to a standstill. All appears to be awaiting the outcome of the Russo-Japanese negotiations, of which the *Times* correspondent at Peking says that they are based on a "Japanese memorandum providing for the mutual recognition of the respective railway rights of the two Powers in Manchuria and Corea." In the meantime the tone of the Japanese Press has become very much more moderate than it was a few weeks ago. The violence of language which characterised even the utterances of prominent vernacular journals has abated considerably. This is not, however, from any false optimism, for the gravity of the situation is fully recognised. One of the best of the native papers of Japan, the *Jiji Shimpō*, distinctly states that the St. Petersburg negotiations have not made any progress at all, that they cannot be said even to be moving, and that they certainly have not reached a stage indicating any prospect of satisfactory settlement. Meanwhile, the *Jiji* continues, Japan's attitude remains unchanged; she is determined to maintain her policy of achieving security for a country in which she has the strongest interests, geographical, commercial and political, and she will assert that policy even though Russia persist in her present lawless course in defiance of frequently proclaimed assurances and deliberately concluded agreements. The *Japan Mail* pins its belief to the *Jiji's* statements and considers that without some marked change things cannot be said to be in a very hopeful condition, though it does not feel justified in despairing of a diplomatic settlement.

Reports of new or amended demands of Russia with regard to Manchuria are continually being published. We have drawn attention to some of them recently. There is, however, little demonstrable basis, as a rule, for the reports. The same Japanese paper which we have quoted above, the *Jiji Shimpō*, discussing one of the latest

lists of demands, including an engagement by China that imports via Russian railways shall never be taxed more than 4.7 per cent. *ad valorem*, says that Japan asks nothing in Manchuria except that the treaty rights of the Powers shall not be impaired, and that the province shall remain open to the trade of the world without any unfair discriminations in favour of one nation. Russia has obtained certain interests in Manchuria, and Japan has not the least idea of objecting to any arrangements essential to the protection of those interests. She cannot consent, however, to have the gates of Manchurian trade closed in her face. This appears to be an eminently just and reasonable attitude, to which it is difficult for Russia to take exception, however pre-eminent are her interests in Manchuria. The Japanese Minister at Peking, Mr. UCHIDA, is said to have stated the case very strongly indeed to Prince CHING, China's vacillating representative. He claimed that the Russian demands ignore Chinese integrity as well as the rights of other Powers, and warned the Prince that the only possible result, should these be granted, will be that Russia will permanently occupy Manchuria. Should the Chinese Government comply with the Russian demand, the Powers would naturally lodge similar demands, which would place China in a very dangerous position. In view of this, it will be advisable for China to reject the Russian demands. On the other hand, it is said that the Russian Minister has threatened the Chinese Government and said that his country will not withdraw a single soldier from Shingking if the Chinese Government does not comply with the recent demands. It is not to be wondered at that Prince CHING is said to feel the awkwardness of his position. But he must be almost used to it by this time. After all, his experience is only the customary lot of the usual flabby school of Chinese diplomatists. It is stated by one of the Japanese newspapers that the British, as well as the Japanese, representative at Peking has been conspicuously active just recently. We may perhaps hope that Sir ERNEST SATOW is devoting some little attention to affairs in Manchuria.

The other branch of the Northern question, relating to Corea, does not concern Great Britain so much; but it is obviously impossible for us to neglect the fate of the peninsula or disregard the aspirations of our Japanese allies in the matter. According to a Seoul despatch of the 8th instant to the *Mainichi*, the British Minister to Corea on the previous day made a statement to the Corean Government with regard to the opening of Wiju and closing of Pingyang. He pointed out that, as Japan has the most important interest in Pingyang, the fate of the city should be decided by the attitude of Japan. The British Government have no choice in the matter; but they recommend that Yong-ampho should be opened as well as Wiju, a proper office being established at the former place for the control of the trade, as it may be difficult to send large ships up to Wiju. This attitude of our representative will probably commend itself, though possibly a still warmer support of their aims might have been preferred by the Japanese. But Corea is chiefly, almost entirely in fact, the concern of Japan. We note, by the way, that, according to another telegram to the *Mainichi*, the *Times* in its issue of the 7th instant expressed a hope that Japan will invite Russia to accede to a precise definition of Japanese railway rights in Corea, as stipulated under the ROSEN-NISHI Protocol of 1898, and went on to applaud Japanese action regarding

the proposed Seoul-Wiju railway connection. A judicious backing up of Japanese enterprise in Corea seems the best policy which Great Britain can adopt.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

(Daily Press, 22nd September.)

The vagaries of exchange have naturally been attracting considerable attention of late, and there have been some rather puzzling features in connection with the movements of the dollar and of the price of bar silver per ounce. A steady rise in both from early in June, when the dollar had fallen to less than 1s. 8d., telegraphic transfer, and bar silver almost down to 24 per oz., culminated at the beginning of this month, when on the 3rd September the dollar stood at 1/10 1/2, telegraphic transfer, and bar silver at 26 1/2 per oz. Since then there has been a decline until the dollar is 1/9 1/2 and bar silver is 26 1/2 per oz. It may be of interest to subjoin a table showing the figures given in our columns every Monday morning, from the beginning of July down to the present date, of the rate of exchange of the dollar, telegraphic transfer, and of the price of bar silver per oz. The figures are as follows:—

\$1, T.T. Bar silver.	\$1, T.T. Bar silver.
4th July 18 1/2 24 1/2	15th Aug. 19 1/2 25 1/2
11th July 18 1/2 24 1/2	22nd Aug. 19 1/2 25 1/2
18th July 18 1/2 25 1/2	29th Aug. 1 10 1/2 26 1/2
25th July 18 1/2 25 1/2	5th Sept. 1 10 1/2 26 1/2
1st Aug. 19 1/2 25 1/2	12th Sept. 1 10 1/2 26 1/2
8th Aug. 19 1/2 25 1/2	19th Sept. 19 1/2 26 1/2

In the Manila *Abenews* there appears a telegram dated Washington, 12th September, to the ensuing effect:—"The Treasury officials here are beginning to fear a strong rise in the price of bullion silver. It was said to-day at the Treasury that the drain on the country's supply of silver made by the coinage of the new Philippine currency, was certain to cause the white metal to soar in the near future. The price of silver has been more than firm for some months, and there has been much talk of a corner." This talk of a corner has been going on for a long time now; nor is the statement about the drain on the silver supply caused by the new Philippine coinage much more recent. But the Manila Government has also had another difficulty to face, namely, that the Chinese have been taking as much gold as possible out of the Islands. As a counterpoise to this, Governor TAFT having made representations to Mr. Root of the necessity of pushing the Conant dollar to the front and putting a stop to the exportation of gold from the Philippines, Mr. Root has instructed General WADE to forbid the shipment of gold to Chinese ports in payment of Army debts incurred there, and, further, the Acting Chief Quartermaster of the Division at Manila has instructed his quartermasters to refrain from recognising the Mexican coins in any official manner.

The position, complex enough already, is continually being further complicated by unforeseen events arising, and the result is so sensitive a field as the money market is a constant state of uncertainty, which acts prejudicially to trade and enterprise of nearly every kind in the Far East, particularly in silver-using places. It is unnecessary now to re-state what a bad effect it has in Hongkong, which is of course the question which chiefly concerns us. There is, however, a tendency while silver is rising, as it has been for some months past, for the advocates of a gold currency to press their case less thoroughly. This is a great mistake, for a temporary rise in the price of silver affects the situation very little and certainly fails to inspire confidence in the security of investments or to encourage trade.

HONGKONG NAVAL DOCKYARD.

(Daily Press, 25th September.)

Mr. ROBERT SHEWAN's letter to the *Times*, which we publish in another column to-day, will doubtless be read with interest in Hongkong. As the *London and China Express* of the 28th August says in an editorial note upon the letter, it is a pity that it did not reach London in time for the series of questions asked by Mr. SHEWAN to be put to the First Lord of the Admiralty before the prorogation of Parliament. Mr. SHEWAN wrote on the 17th July (while still in Hongkong), and presumably the letter reached London on the 17th August, though it was not published in the *Times* until the 27th of the month. Mr. SHEWAN deals very frankly with a question which is of great importance to the Colony, and the case as he presents it is very strong. In particular, his ninth question, if it should be answered in the affirmative, is an argument of most telling force. He asks whether it is not a fact that the value of the present site and work is estimated by expert judges to be sufficient to defray the whole cost of removal as well as the cost of the new site. If the reply should be "Yes," then it may be well asked, further, why the Admiralty in their letter of the 9th March to the Colonial Office, demanded such enormous terms from Hongkong in return for an abandonment of the present site and works. Mr. SHEWAN promised a second letter, containing a proposal for a far more commodious, economical, and suitable naval establishment than that at present occupied in Hongkong. We shall await this with no little eagerness. In the meanwhile, although Mr. SHEWAN's first communication to the *Times* was unfortunately too late to be made use of in the way he hoped, yet the ventilation of the subject in the columns of the leading paper of London and the world cannot have entirely failed to have an effect. The lapse of time makes a change of site gradually more unlikely; but that it is not yet impossible is shown by the very letter of the Admiralty on the 9th March last.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Thursday afternoon in the Board Room. Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer (President), presided, and there were also present Hon. W. Chatham, Director of Public Works (Vice-President); Mr. C. McL. Messer, Acting Registrar-General; Colonel W. E. Webb, R.A.M.C., Mr. Fung Wa Chuu, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Mr. A. Rumjahn, Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C.; Mr. E. A. Hewett; Dr. Pearce, Acting Medical Officer of Health; Dr. Barnett, Assistant Medical Officer of Health; and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Correspondence was laid on the table relative to the proposed sites recommended for public latrines and urinals.

Mr. Hewett attached a minute to the effect that in order to make the correspondence clear the Board should be supplied with plans of the existing latrines and urinals and the sites of those proposed.

The PRESIDENT said that the plans had now been attached. There had been a complaint against a latrine proposed to be erected near the Harbour Master's Office. The Director of Public Works said he knew of no alternative site; it was a question whether the Board would recommend that the original site be agreed to.

Mr. HEWETT said it was a matter of the greatest importance that a sufficient number of these public conveniences should be provided, and he instanced cases of indecency occurring on the public streets as a direct result of the insufficiency of such conveniences.

The PRESIDENT moved that the papers be re-circulated for the information of members. Hon. Mr. POLLOCK seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR KOWLOON.

The PRESIDENT pursuant to notice moved—"That the Board, under the provisions of Section 30 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, depose Dr. Macfarlane to institute summary proceedings before a Magistrate against any person contravening any of the Bye-laws duly made under Section 16 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903," and "That the Board, under the provisions of Section 256 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, depose Dr. Macfarlane to institute summary proceedings before a Magistrate for the recovery of any penalty imposed by Part II. of the said Ordinance or any Bye-laws made thereunder." Dr. Macfarlane, he said, was the second Assistant Medical Officer of Health, who had within the last two days arrived in the Colony, and it was proposed that he should take over the duties of the Medical Officer of Health for Kowloon. It was a rapidly growing suburb of the town, and the Government had approved of that suggestion. He would supervise the work of the plague inspectors and also the sanitary inspectors, and generally perform the duties of Medical Officer of Health in that district.

Mr. HEWETT asked if he would also attend to those Government servants who were entitled to medical attendance and who lived in Kowloon?

The PRESIDENT said that matter had not yet been considered.

Mr. HEWETT remarked that it was a matter which had been before the Chamber of Commerce, of which he was chairman. They attached considerable importance to it and as it might necessitate discussion later on he trusted the Government would bear it in mind—that it was possible that this officer might have to meet this requirement, which was a great one.

The motion was agreed to.

A SCAVENGING LANE.

There was laid on the table an application for exemption from the provision of a scavenging lane at the back of 41 and 43, Wing Lok Street.

Mr. Lau Chu Pak minuted:—"These houses are too shallow to provide for a scavenging lane. The Board should recommend Government to pay full compensation and resume them."

The D.P.W.:—"The proposed lane would form one of the outlets from a lane running at the back of the houses fronting on Kwong Yuen Streets E. and W. respectively. Such a lane would be of undoubted benefit. I would suggest that a modification of the open space be recommended, subject to part of it being left to form the lane."

The VICE-PRESIDENT moved that a modification of five feet in the open space requirements be allowed on condition that provision was made for a lane not less than four feet at the back of these premises, without compensation.

The PRESIDENT seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

LANE AT FIRST AND SECOND STREETS.

Correspondence was submitted relative to a proposed scavenging lane for four new houses between First and Second Streets.

Mr. A. Rumjahn minuted:—"Unless the lane is accessible to scavenging coolies, it is only money given away."

Mr. Lau Chu Pak:—"What is the good of a lane which is inaccessible? It will only form a repository for rubbish."

The VICE-PRESIDENT explained that it was not a practicable thing to construct a scavenging lane there and moved that the Government be informed accordingly.

Mr. RUMJAHN seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDENT said that in his covering minute the Colonial Secretary asked for an opinion from the Board as to what should be done in similar cases. He did not think the Board could give a general answer.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—No; every case will have to be decided on its merits.

PROVISION OF OPEN SPACES.

The SECRETARY laid on the table correspondence relative to the provision of open spaces.

etc., for certain houses in Kowloon Inland Lot Nos. 1,090 and 1,088.

The M. O. H. minuted that the exemption might be granted if it was arranged that the living-room would have a window opening into the street through a lobby or verandah, as shown in the plan.

Mr. A. Rumjahn:—"The course suggested by the M. O. H. is better than cutting away half the kitchen and the corresponding portion of the roof. I suggested it in the case of Humphreys Estate houses in Haughom, but the Board decided it otherwise."

The VICE-PRESIDENT moved that the exemption be granted on the condition stated above.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION.

There was submitted an application for permission to erect a trough closet on Inland Lot No. 1,633, the necessary water-supply to be obtained from a nullah.

Mr. HEWETT stated that he had seen this nullah dry and asked what the applicant was going to do for water for flushing purposes in the event of a drought.

The VICE-PRESIDENT asserted that the nullah in question had never been dry even in the most severe droughts, and moved that the application be granted, so long as the use of the stream be allowed to continue.

The PRESIDENT seconded.

Mr. HEWETT moved that the matter be held over till the next meeting, so as to enable the Water Authority and the Medical Officer to report as to whether they honestly thought that the proposed getting of water from this nullah could be carried into effect.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK seconded.

On a division, the amendment was carried by 6 to 3, the minority being the President, Vice-President and Colonel Webb. Mr. Fung Wa Chun did not vote.

DISPOSAL OF RUBBISH DURING STORMY WEATHER.

There was submitted correspondence relative to a suggested site for the purpose of depositing rubbish, etc., during stormy weather, when the scavenging boats are unable to come alongside the wharves.

The M.O.H. suggested that the D.P.W. be asked to say what vacant sites of Crown land were available at Tai Hang and Kennedytown for this purpose.

The D.P.W. sent in a tracing showing a suggested site in the Eastern District adjoining Caroline Hill. He was unable to suggest a suitable site in the Kennedytown district.

Mr. E. A. Hewett minuted:—"We should have at least one site at each end of the town."

Mr. A. Rumjahn:—"Surely an additional site in the Western District can be found."

Colonel Webb:—"I think there should be a site at each end of the town if possible."

Mr. Lau Chu Pak:—"One site is not enough. Another at the west end of the City should be set aside for the purpose."

Hon. H. E. Pollock:—"I agree with Mr. Lau Chu Pak."

Mr. Fung Wa Chun:—"One site is not sufficient. There should be at two least or three sites."

The PRESIDENT moved that the matter be referred back to the Director of Public Works to see if he could find them some other sites, including one in Kowloon which was in the same position as Hongkong in this respect in typhoon weather.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK seconded.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said he had already reported on this matter. In the Western district he did not know of any site available unless it was the heap of earth that had recently been tipped on the foreshore where the pigs were lauded for the slaughter-house.

The motion was carried.

SALE OF FOOD AT QUARRY BAY.

In connection with an application for a licence to sell articles of food on the premises known as No. 54, Quarry Bay.

Mr. Hewett minuted:—"In view of increasing population in the neighbourhood of Quarry Bay, is it not advisable to have a Government market?"

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, the matter was referred to the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon for report, Mr. Hewett seconding.

SHAUKIWAN MARKET.

In connection with an application for a licence to sell pork at Shaukiwan West,

Mr. Rumjahn asked in the minutes if there was not a market at Shaukiwan?

The PRESIDENT said there was a market but it was not large enough for the requirements of of the district.

Mr. HEWETT asked if it would not be advisable to extend the market?

The PRESIDENT replied that that had been recommended by the Board already.

This matter also was referred to the C.V.S.

INSANITARY UN CHOW.

There was laid on the table correspondence re the insanitary condition of certain huts in Un Chow village.

The M. O. H. minuted that the ground near the huts was quite swampy and he thought the owner should be compelled to drain it; he also recommended the introduction of surface drainage.

Mr. E. A. Hewett:—"This question appears to have been under consideration for six months. This should be ample notice for the owners. The village generally appears to be insanitary and must be put in order; otherwise the Government should resume the property without compensation."

The VICE-PRESIDENT moved that the recommendation of the M. O. H. be approved.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

A BACKYARD.

There was laid on the table a further application for exemption from the provision of a backyard for No. 39, Kramer Street.

The PRESIDENT said that the Board had already recommended the granting of exemption in the case of this house which was a corner one. The Government did not grant this. It now appeared that the house was very shallow, only 18 feet, and the result would be, if they insisted on the necessary backyard, that there would be very little house left.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said this was a case in which exemption might very well be granted; otherwise there would be nothing in the shape of a house left. He moved accordingly.

The PRESIDENT seconded, remarking that the attention of the Government might be called to the fact that this was a shallow house.

The motion was agreed to.

RATS.

The rat return showed that during the fortnight ended 21st inst. 63 rats had been caught; of these 10 were infected with plague.

MISCELLANEOUS.

An application for permission to erect water-closets at the Peak Hotel was refused.

Exemption from the provision of a backyard was granted in the case of No. 1, Upper Lascar Row (a corner house) and refused in the case of Nos. 3 and 5.

There was no other public business of importance before the Board.

HONGKONG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At a meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, held in Chamber Room City Hall on Tuesday, 8th September, 1903, at 3.45 p.m., present:—Mr. E. A. Hewett (Chairman), Mr. L. R. Law (Vice-Chairman), Hon. C. W. Dickson, Messrs. C. Michelau, N. A. Siebs, J. R. M. Smith, H. E. Tomkins, R. C. Wilcox, A. G. Wood, Hon. H. E. Pollock, K. C. (ex officio), and A. R. Lowe (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of monthly meeting held 11th ultimo were read and confirmed.

NEW REPRESENTATIVE ON LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

On Hon H. E. Pollock, K.C., taking his seat the Chairman said that he had great pleasure in offering the good wishes of the Committee on his joining them. Mr. Pollock thanked the Chairman for his expression of goodwill.

NEW MEMBERS.

The Secretary reported that since the last meeting Messrs. Lamko & Rogge and L. C. Wilks & Co. had been elected to membership subject to the usual confirmation by the members at next annual general meeting.

THE GOVERNOR AND THE CHAMBER'S ADDRESS TO SIR ERNEST SATOW.

The Chairman said a copy of this address was sent to H.E. Sir Henry Blake

under cover of a letter dated the 20th ultimo, in which it was stated that any help His Excellency could see his way to give, by seizing any opportunity which may occur of effecting a settlement of the matters in dispute on the lines laid down in the address, would be much appreciated by the Chamber, and an answer had been received from the Colonial Secretary, dated 29th ultimo, that H.E. the Governor had spoken to Sir Ernest Satow on many of the subjects mentioned in the address, with which the Governor was in entire accord. Reference was made to H.E.'s endeavours ever since he has been in the Colony to the opening of the West River and Kongmoon. The letter went on to state that H.E. would always be glad to forward the desires of the Chamber in the interests of British trade in China.

CURRENCY QUESTION.

The Chairman stated that as agreed at the last meeting a telegram was sent to the Chairman of the Shanghai Chamber (through the courtesy of Messrs Jardine Matheson & Co.) asking whether the word "absorption" might be substituted for "closing" of the Provincial Mints in China. On the receipt of a reply agreeing to the alteration the amended memorial was signed and sent back to Shanghai under cover of a letter giving the reasons of the Committee for desiring the alteration and suggesting that a copy of the memorial should be supplied direct to each Minister at Peking. The Shanghai Chamber acknowledged the receipt of the signed memorial on the 2nd inst. and mentioned that it had been sent on to the Tientsin Chamber for signature together with copies for each member of the Diplomatic Body at Peking.

PROPOSED NEW TAX ON OPIUM AT CANTON.

Read letter from Mr. Townley, H.B.M. Chargé d'Affaires at Peking, acknowledging the Chamber's telegram of 20th July and letter of 29th July last, and mentioning that he had been in constant correspondence with the Chinese Government with regard to the imposition of additional taxation on foreign opium, and that he had learnt from H.M. Consul-General at Canton that the tax referred to had been suspended.

The Chairman said that at the moment there was nothing further to be done with this matter.

THE CABLE COMPANIES AND CUSTOMERS' DEPOSITS.

Read correspondence which had passed between certain members and the Chamber, and also between the Chamber and the cable companies, the latter having already been circulated amongst the members.

The Chairman said that it was understood that the directors had been informed by telegraph of the objections raised and that on the receipt of the correspondence in London a reply would be wired out.

PROHIBITION OF HONGKONG COOLIE IMMIGRATION AT SINGAPORE.

Read the following letter received on the 24th instant:—

Chamber of Commerce.

Singapore, 15th August, 1903.

Sir,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo on the subject of coolie immigration from Hongkong to this port, and am directed to thank you for the information and suggestions you have been good enough to communicate.

Your suggestions have the attention of my committee.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd) ALEX GUNN,
Secretary.

A. R. LOWE, Esq.

Secretary, Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.

FRENCH DUTY ON COFFEE.

Read letter dated 17th August from the Colonial Secretary enclosing copy of letter dated 23rd June addressed by H.M.'s Ambassador at Paris to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs relating to the French Duty on Coffee in which was stated the reasons of the French Government for denouncing the present arrangement. The new duty proposed 156 francs per 100 kilos instead of 136 francs, and is likely to come into force in 1904.

PRODUCTION OF TEA AND COFFEE IN INDIA.

Statistics relating to the production of tea and coffee in India between 1885 and 1902 were laid on the table.

Mr. Pollock asked whether these productions had been tried in the New Territory, and the Secretary stated that an inquiry from Mr. Lunn, the Superintendent of the Botanical and Afforestation Department, had elicited the following notes on the subject: Tea extensively cultivated by Chinese and abandoned many years ago on account of heavy taxes imposed on it by mandarins. Coffee experimentally tried on the island of Hongkong ten to twenty years ago by private European enterprise. Never tried in New Territory. The bushes in the Public Gardens do not flourish properly. Coffee requires a continuous hot, damp climate and deep, rich soil in order to grow properly.

ARRIVAL OF THE CHINESE MINISTER TO JAPAN.

H.E. Yang Chu, the newly-appointed Minister for China at Tokyo, was a passenger on the C. M. s.s. *Taishun*, which left Shanghai on Saturday at 8.30, arriving in our harbour on the 22nd inst. at 2 p.m. On account of cholera at the northern port, some delay occurred while the vessel was cleared by the doctor, but at 2.50 those waiting the arrival of the Minister were able to board the *Taishun*.

H. E. Yang Chu, who is a pleasant-looking man, 55 years of age, and a Canton-born Manchu, received his education at the 'Tu g Wen Kuan College, Canton. Previous to being appointed Chinese Minister at Tokyo and President of the Chinese Education Mission in Japan, he held numerous appointments, among others, as Director of the Canton Arsenal, of Railway Construction, and of the Naval School at Whampoa; head of the Department of Police, Canton; one of the Secretaries at the Foreign Office, Peking; Secretary of Legation, Tokyo; and has acted as Consul at both Yokohama and Nagasaki. With eleven years' experience of Japan, H.E. Yang has great knowledge of that country to aid him in his new office. The appointment was quite expected, and appears to be very popular among those holding liberal views. His Excellency is no stranger to Hongkong. It will be remembered that during Prince Chu's visit here last year he came down from Canton as the representative of the Viceroy of the Two Kwang to welcome the Royal visitor.

In the afternoon the Minister called on H. E. Sir Henry A. Blake, G.C.M.G., at Government House, afterwards visiting Mr. S. Noma, Consul for Japan, at his residence, MacDonell Road. Later in the day H.E. was the guest of Mr. Fung Wa Chun, with whom he dined.

Amongst those who went on the *Taishun* to welcome the Minister were Mr. S. Noma; Mr. Hewan Chan Wai Fun, Manager of the C.M.S.N. Co., Adviser and Representative on Foreign Affairs to H.E. the Provincial Treasurer of Kwangtung; Mr. Tam Tsz Kong, Ex-Consul-General to Cuba; Mr. Fung Wa Chun, and numerous Chinese merchants.

After a short though enjoyable visit, H.E. Yang Chu, sailed by the C.M. Co.'s *Taishun* at 8 a.m. on the 23rd inst. for Canton, to which place he has gone to fetch his wife and family, previously to taking up his post in Japan. He will probably return to Hongkong in time to catch the N.Y.K. s.s. *Kuga Maru*, which sails on the 6th prox. for the North.

It is interesting to hear that H.E. Yang Chu has rather different opinions to his predecessor in office, H.E. Ts'ai Chun; as to the value of the Chinese Education Mission in Japan. The former Minister had considerable friction with the students, and we are informed from a reliable source, was not much impressed with their value. On the other hand, H.E. Yang is of opinion that the students in the near future will be extremely useful to China.

The death is announced from Tokyo of Danjuro, the greatest Japanese actor of the old school.

Great oceanic disturbances are reported along the coasts of Japan. Atami was threatened with a tidal wave when last news arrived thence, and huge billows, some as much as 50 feet high were rolling in the offing.

THE WAVE OF CRIME IN HONGKONG.

A PLEA FOR THE POLICE.

Crime is so prevalent at present in the Colony, more especially in the island of Hongkong, that scarcely a day passes but a report is made to the police of some outrage having been committed. The public naturally turn to their protectors, the police, on whom opprobrium is heaped, should the criminals escape and remain uncaptured. While the public, and also the Press, criticise so severely, it might be interesting to a few to know:—

1. What are the men composing the police?
2. What training do they receive? and
3. What encouragement is given to the men composing the police, to create in them a healthy interest for their work?

Taking the first question, it is of course known that the bulk of the men composing the police are Indians and Chinese. Of Europeans—making allowance for sick and for others on leave in England—there are barely 100 men available for duty. On these men rests the onus of supervising the whole of the police work both in the New Territory and in Hongkong. The men who do the beat-duties in Hongkong are either Indians or Chinese, and to these men, whose brains—with a few exceptions—are of a poor mental order, is entrusted the property—nay, lives—of the Hongkong public.

Probably no one will question the loyalty or bravery of the Indian constable, and indeed "Sahib" is a very good man in a rough-and-tumble, but I think it will also be agreed that he is but distantly related to "Sherlock Holmes" or "Dick Donovan." Briefly, the Indian is an equally picturesque and inefficient unit of the police.

At the most his duties should be confined to the controlling of hawkers and traffic. In the "stilly night" the tramp of "Sahib's" big boots can be heard from the other end of his beat, and the nocturnal thief draws his bearings accordingly. If the boots are not heard, the chances are that "Sahib" is comfortably asleep somewhere. At the best he moons around his beat in a listless fashion.

His comrade, the Chinese constable, is, if anything, a trifle worse. Dismissal from the police has no terrors for him, and he enjoys life squeezing his brother Celestial and performing his beat duty in an even worse fashion than the Indian. Of course, there are exceptions, but I speak generally.

It is a positive fact that there are at times only two or three Europeans on night duty in the Central District, who have to superintend six sections with an average of ten beats on each section. In their efforts to keep down expenses, the authorities have long ago withdrawn the mounted patrols from the Aberdeen and Shaikwan roads. The result is that, at the present time these roads are not safe for law-abiding persons to venture out on alone. If it is an expense to fodder horses, why not have bicycle patrols as in the British Isles? Outside the initial expenses, the cost would be little and the benefits many.

Turning to the second question,—the training of the men—the only answer to give is: they receive *nil*. If tiring their legs out stamping on a hard concrete compound, in a vain attempt to learn "drill," or sitting in a so-called school-room studying hieroglyphics on a blackboard—the meaning of which many of the scholars have only a vague inkling of—be training, then I have got another name for it. The amount of needless drill the police receive here makes one think of them as soldiers and not as police. For the greater part of the year the men are so harassed with drills, parades, etc., that it is almost a physical impossibility for them to perform their beat duties properly. The writer of this article served some years in a well-known police force at home, the efficiency of which was as good as any in the Kingdom, and there drill was put aside as a minor qualification.

What training was given was of a useful nature. A splendid gymnasium was provided, and exercises performed which the men took a healthy interest in, and which made them smart and athletic-looking. A school was held for the teaching of police matters and law

only. A library was provided, stocked with all the books a policeman should read. A Mutual Improvement Society with police questions for discussion was held weekly. In Hongkong there is nothing of this. True, there is a stuffy little room at the Central Police Station, called a library, which is capable of holding at most seven or eight men, and which contains little literature worth reading except the current newspapers. A canteen is provided which is a questionable benefit. If the time spent in useless drill was devoted to other and better methods of training, the public might then hope for some improvement in the police.

The third and last question is equally hopeless as the foregoing questions have been. The encouragement given to the police to make themselves efficient in their work is practically *nil*. An examination is supposed to be held yearly which provides only one prize, however many may compete. The bulk of the marks given are for a knowledge of Cantonese colloquial and drill. This is unfair, as men who have been in the Army, and men who have had long contact with the Chinese, have it all their own way, and there are many of these in the H.K.P. The examination held should be solely upon police matters with a prospect of at least three prizes. Otherwise the examination is a farce.

However, if a knowledge of Chinese is essential, what is the reward of the studious "bobby"? Let me tell you it is the magnificent sum of \$5 monthly! Think of it, ye *tailpans* who luxuriate in your palatial residences at the Peak and elsewhere, and who hurl anathemas at the police. The Government has even taken away the exchange compensation on the \$5, and, as if in derision, promotion is promised to those who acquire a knowledge of languages.

The unravelling of the Colony's crimes is in the hands of the few comprising the Detective Department. The heads of this Department depend mainly on their Chinese assistants for information, not always reliable. There are only two European officers of this Department who can be said to possess a working knowledge of the Chinese language and habits. The remaining officers are dependant upon their Chinese assistants.

If the Government would provide proper facilities for the European officers to acquire a knowledge of Chinese, and offer a proper emolument, abolish three-fourths of the absurd drill and provide a gymnasium school where the men could receive proper physical training, likewise establish a school where police questions could be learned and discussed *ad lib.*, then many of the men would avail themselves of the benefits. It would also help to bring the H.K.P. up to the same standard of efficiency as the police forces in the United Kingdom. In its present state the police force is undermined, un-instructed, and discouraged; and while it remains so, so will crime continue to be rampant in this Colony.

THE SUNKEN CHINESE CRUISER.

The projected voyage of a survey party to the wreck of the Chinese cruiser *Huan Tai* has not yet been definitely arranged. As before intimated in these columns, the sunken cruiser lies in about 17 fathoms of water. If salvage operations are undertaken, it will be for the purpose not of raising the ship but of recovering the specie and rifles on board, amounting to some \$1,000,000 dollars' worth.

The following official statement regarding the collision was given by Mr. Arthur Fiers, general superintendent of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's steamships, at Montreal:—

The *Empress of India*, bound for Hongkong, was passing the Chinese cruiser *Huan Tai*, both vessels being on parallel courses and going in the same direction. When nearly up to the Chinese cruiser, her captain suddenly and without any warning starboarded and came across the bow of the *Empress of India*. The latter at once manoeuvred into position, which resulted in the blow from the cruiser being a glancing one, instead of a direct impact. The cruiser, then sliding aft along the mail steamer, did some damage to the upper works of the latter, but she herself was struck by the starboard propeller of the *Empress of India*, and sank in ninety minutes.

PIRACY IN CHINESE WATERS.

While the Chinese junk No. 3 was proceeding on her way to Hongkong from Taishan, she fell in with pirates about six miles to the north of that place. It appears that at about 8.30 on the morning of the 16th September the master noticed an oyster junk approaching them. His suspicions were aroused and he hailed the boat, when they immediately commenced to fire at his junk. Arrangements were at once made to repel the attack, and a brisk fire was returned. This, however, only lasted for about five minutes, as the crew of the Chinese junk, some 40 men, were afraid, and discontinued their firing. The pirates at once drew closer, and finally twenty of the crew armed with rifles and revolver boarded the junk. All the men on board were driven down into the hold, with the exception of the master, who when he saw the pirates preparing to board his vessel, hid himself under a heap of firewood, and there remained until the robbers had gone. One of the crew, named Cheung Ho, was wounded in the head with a blow from the butt-end of a rifle, because he refused to hand over the keys to the thieves. The cannon was spiked, windlass and anchor thrown overboard, and the pirates, with their own boat alongside, sailed for Shacheng, four and a half miles north of Fukwing. Arriving at Shacheng, they rifled the ship and stole goods to the value of \$4,170. The articles stolen include eighteen rifles, two breechloaders, two blunderbusses, fifty-six pounds of powder, eight boxes of percussion-caps, twenty rounds of ammunition, \$670 in money, \$300 in banknotes, five hundred pieces of cotton cloth, crepe silk and pongee, a quantity of firecrackers, paper and general cargo. The robbers then left in their boat and sailed away in the direction of the shore. The master of the junk, Fung Shi, says that he is unable to identify the pirate boat.

ORDINATION AT THE CATHEDRAL.

Since 1879, when Bishop Burdon officiated, there has not been an ordination service in St. John's Cathedral. On Sunday morning at eleven o'clock the first ordination for twenty-five years took place, the candidates being the Rev. John Hind, B.A. (Dublin), the Rev. Marcus Mackenzie, B.A. (Dublin), M. B. (Edin.), both of the Dublin University Mission, stationed at Fuhning, Fokien Province—and the Rev. F. Child (of C.M.S. College, Islington), Kweilin, Kwangsi Province.

The service opened with a processional hymn, on the conclusion of which the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., Chaplain of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, preached a sermon of exhortation, taking his text from 2 Corinthians, xii, 9. Following the address, the candidates were presented to the Right Rev. J. C. Hoare, D.D., Bishop of Victoria, by the Rev. Archdeacon W. Banister, of the Church Missionary Society. The remainder of the service was as in the Church of England Prayer Book, with the addition of an anthem, "How beautiful upon the mountains" (Stainer). Rev. F. Icely, M.A., B.N., intoned the Litany, to which the choir sang the Ferial responses. Assisting in the service were the Rev. W. J. Southam, B.A., of the Y.M.C.A., and the Rev. F. T. Johnson M.A., Chaplain of St. John's Cathedral. Stainer's setting in F of the Kyrie, Gloria, and Credo, was devotionally sung by the choir. The first two verses of *Veni, Creator Spiritus* were taken by Mrs. Hagen as a soprano solo to Attwood's setting, and the last two verses by the full choir. H.E. Sir Henry A. Blake, G.C.M.G., attended by Sir John Keane, A.D.C., was present.

The *Shanghai Times* publishes the following:—Peking, 15th September. Ex-Marshall Su denied the charge, made against him, of having appropriated a large sum of money, namely Tls. 130,000 odd, out of the war fund for his own uses. Su pleaded that there was no money in the treasury of Kwangsi at the time, and he could not have embezzled the sum of money mentioned above. The Board of Punishments has not yet been able to decide his case. In spite of what has been reported, it seems a formal sentence has never been passed on him.

VOLUNTEER PROMENADE CONCERT.

Two causes contributed to the fact that the number present at Saturday's concert was about the largest on record—weather conditions could scarcely have been more favourable for an open-air entertainment, and the programme, was exceedingly attractive. While it is not difficult in the cities of Europe to get a large gathering to listen to the most accomplished interpreters of the masters, it must be taken as a high compliment to the musical taste of the colony that a classical programme such as the one submitted on Saturday could attract so numerous an audience from our small community. To put it mildly, however, the promises of the advertised programme were hardly realised in the selections of the orchestra. By all means give us compositions by the great authors if those individually and collectively concerned in the production have the musical ability to submit such not only correctly but with comprehension of the requirements of the composition. The latter was not shown by the Philharmonic Society orchestra on Saturday. We believe most of the members are proficient instrumentalists, but the faults lay in following their own inclinations instead of the markings on the copies in front of them, and also not looking more to the conductor. Take for instance the "Peer Gynt" Suite (Greig): the discords in that weirdly beautiful composition are most effective if strict time is observed; otherwise the conglomeration of sounds is abominable. It is far from our intention to discourage the amateurs—the fact of their being members of the Orchestral Society shows they are trying to improve themselves musically—but only to point out defects so that they can be remedied in future performances. Mr. Grumble is to be excused for his excitable exclamations, as it must have been annoying to find mistakes, which had been corrected at the rehearsals, time and again cropping up—"good old land-marks" is an apt description by a well-known local musician. The Intermezzo from *Cavalleria Rusticana* secured the orchestra an encore, it being as popular as it is beautiful; the effort, however, scarcely deserved such appreciation. Madame Blanche Arral's presence had been much looked forward to, and her non-appearance, on account of indisposition, was announced, occasioned great disappointment. Gounod's "Lend me your aid" was cut out, Mr. C. H. Lammert being also indisposed; his place was filled by Mrs. Gordon making an extra appearance. The deep contralto voice of this lady was admirably suited to "Beloved, it is morn"; she sang in response to a recall "She wore a wreath of roses." In the second part Mrs. Gordon was again encored, and gave Lord Henry Somerset's pathetic "Hush me, O sorrow." Mrs. Macgowan was the other lady vocalist: her "The Promise of Life" was much enjoyed. A cello solo by Mr. P. L. Miller was correctly played; the mellow-toned instrument, however, is not suitable for solo work in the open, only the moderately loud passages being audible at the back of the sitting area. This was not the case with Mr. F. C. Barlow's "Sonata in A" (Handel) for the violin, every note being distinct even at a distance. An accomplished violinist, Mr. Barlow knows how to get everything possible out of his instrument. "My Queen" was very creditably rendered by Mr. G. H. Edwards, who pluckily went through his solo, though suffering from fever, we believe. The male quartettes were not so good as at the last concert; this was due to the first tenor, Mr. Wagner, having to be called in at the last minute—or at least on Saturday morning—to take the place of Mr. Mirow, who, we regret to state, is down with dysentery. Not getting a correct start, the quartette made a hash of "Bunderslied": amends were made for this in their second appearance; and, being recalled, they again essayed Mozart's production, this time with considerable improvement. Messrs. Davidson and Stephenson introduced a humorous variety into the programme; both came on again. Of Mr. Grace's appearance it is sufficient to say he did not tarnish his reputation. He is ever a most popular singer in Hongkong.

It is to be hoped that in the selection of the orchestral pieces for the next concert it will be borne in mind that the performance is to take place in the open air, and a programme suitable to the conditions arranged. Might we suggest that music of a more popular description be given a hearing by "popular" we do not of course mean rubbish. It would not long hold the favour of the public were it without merit.

THEATRE ROYAL.

Pollard's Comedy Company re-opened on the 22nd inst in the Theatre Royal after a short visit to the Lyceum, Shanghai, where the members became great favourites and had an excellent season. *A Gay Night in Paris* has been described as being a "superfluity of naughtiness," but for all that the funny situations and witty dialogue gloss over the riskiness of the piece and make it most enjoyable. Mr. Edward Nable was in his gayest mood as the old reprobate Pinglet; the character study of this part being especially good. Next in order of merit was Miss Lawrence in the rôle of Marcella, a woman who sighs for a good time. Mathieu—a stammering old curmudgeon who constantly manages to be in the place where he is least wanted—at Mr. Harold Carr's hands received an excellent interpretation. Victorine, a maid, to say the least is a trifle fast, and Miss Grace Gale made the most of the part—which is saying a good deal. As the much-imposed-on husband and wife Miss Blanch Clements and Mr. Wentworth Watson made a hit. An extremely funny part was that of Mr. Merry Lynch, a waiter with experience of providing comfortable suppers for two.

NOTES FROM THE BOTANIC GARDENS.

The Papyrus of the ancient Egyptians was obtained from the plant now known under the name of *Cyperus Papyrus*. It is a very handsome aquatic plant standing 6 or 7 ft. out of the water. There are several specimens growing around the fountain in the old garden. It is supposed to be the bulrush in which the infant Moses was hidden and to anyone who has seen it growing in Egypt this can be readily believed. In the lagoons near the Suez Canal it forms particularly large and dense beds. In England, where it requires to be grown in glass-houses, it has been under cultivation for a hundred years.

A very useful plant for the garden and for producing cut flowers is *Hedychium coronarium* locally known as the "white ginger." It is very largely grown by the Chinese and may be purchased when in season in Wyndham Street. The flowers are produced at the ends of the shoots in succession and if all of them be allowed to open, instead of cutting the growths when the first flowers expand, the period of flowering is greatly extended. The flowers are white and very sweetly scented. At one time it was supposed to be a native of China but according to the *Index Floræ Sinensis* it has, up to the present time, only been collected in a wild state in India and the Malay Peninsula.

A shrub which will be in flower in a few days in the new garden is *Oxyanthus tubiflorus*, a native of tropical Africa and belonging to the same family as the *Gardenia*. The flowers are whitish, trumpet-shaped, several inches long and produced in great abundance. They have been mistaken for lilies when out, having a certain resemblance in form.

The rainfall since the 16th of September has been .58 of an inch only.

According to news by the last mail from Vladivostock, says the *Kobe Chronicle*, there were eleven Russian war-ships, two Italian, one British, and one French warship in the harbour at the time the *Kobe-maru* left the Russian port. Trade still continued depressed. It was also reported that twenty-seven of the released captains and pursers of the Japanese schooners, which were seized at Kamschatka, left Vladivostock by the *Aikoku-maru* on the 4th inst. for Tsuruga. The Japanese Commercial Agent at Vladivostock expressed his doubts whether the Russian authorities would return the vessels seized.

MR. R. SHEWAN AND THE DOCKYARD QUESTION.

Mr. Robert Shewan sent the following letter to the *Times* last month:—

Will not some member of the House of Commons put the following questions to the First Lord of the Admiralty?

1. Do the Admiralty object to the request of the residents of Hongkong, contained in a petition to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated Hongkong, April 4, that a Royal Commission be appointed to consider the question of the change of site for the new Admiralty dock?

2. Is it true that the original borings taken by Admiralty officials out here have proved incorrect and misleading?

3. Is it true that, in consequence of the nature of the ground having proved very different from what was expected, the time and cost of construction will exceed the original estimates?

4. If so, what is the estimated extra time and cost?

5. Is it not true that the early completion of the work is not essential, as there is already a large dock at Hongkong, capable of docking all but the very largest ships in His Majesty's Navy, and another in course of construction which, it is understood, will be subsidised by the Admiralty, and which will be capable of docking the largest vessels in the world, both of which docks will, of course, be entirely at the disposal of the Admiralty in times of emergency, as well as available under ordinary circumstances?

6. In view of their being no danger from delay, will the Admiralty explain their reasons for refusing the request of the petitioners?

7. In view of the confined and cramped position of the present intended site, is it not probable that the accommodation there will be found insufficient even before the works are completed?

8. Could not another and more commodious site, capable of indefinite expansion, be found on the island of Hongkong, or on the point of mainland opposite which juts into the middle of the harbour?

9. Is it not a fact that the value of the present site and work is estimated by expert judges to be sufficient to defray the whole cost of removal as well as the cost of the new site?

The object of these questions is to draw attention to the great and unnecessary hardship the community of Hongkong will suffer if this foolish scheme of the Admiralty to build a dock where no dock should be persisted in. The site, when it was first chosen, was generally condemned, although many only dared say so under their breath; and now it is an open secret that some one has blundered over the original borings and that difficulties have arisen in finding, or rather having to make, a proper bottom—so much so that it is generally understood it would be cheaper and better if instead of throwing good money after bad the Admiralty would face the music and admit their mistake.

A petition asking for a Royal Commission to enquire into the truth of these matters was forwarded on April 8 last to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, through the Governor here, Sir Henry Blake, who was quite in accord with it. In reply, Mr. Chamberlain states that the Admiralty admit it would be an advantage if more room were available for extension, and enclosed an extract of a letter from the Admiralty to the Colonial Office, dated March 9, 1903 (which could not, therefore, be a special reply to the petition), which says that their lordships cannot assent to the abandonment of the works, "the early completion of which they believe to be necessary to security." It is possible that the Admiralty believe this; but their belief is evidently not strong enough to enable them to face a Royal Commission and give reasons for the faith that is in them. The residents of Hongkong, on the other hand, are strongly of opinion that the present dock accommodation of Hongkong is ample, and will soon be more than ample for all the requirements of the Admiralty; and every engineer or military or naval official that you meet will privately admit not only this but also that a most inconvenient and expensive site has been chosen—a site that is furthermore a direct loss and injury to the traffic of the

colony by blocking up our water front and cutting off the east from the west end of the town—although, of course, most are chary of openly condemning the acts of their predecessors.

The two points on which the Admiralty now seem to rely—for they seem to have given up their old contention that their great god strategy would not allow them to build anywhere but in the middle of our principal thoroughfares—are the want of other dock accommodation and the cost of changing the site now the work has been begun. But the first objection is met by the existing docks, and that now in course of construction by a private firm, and the second does not exist, for the value of the present site on Queen's Road is enormous, and it is ridiculous that it should be wasted on such a purpose when there is so much cheap land available outside the town. Where I think the petition was weak was in not more forcibly drawing the attention of Mr. Chamberlain to these points; for we were bound to propound a remedy for the evils of which we complain, and could not expect my Lords of the Admiralty to shift their dock merely because it would prove a nuisance—it is that already.

As to an alternative site, there are several, for none could be more ill-chosen than the present one; and in a subsequent letter I shall be pleased to forward you a proposal for what would be a far more commodious, economical, and suitable naval establishment than that at present contemplated. I hope that you will kindly find space for this letter in your columns, and that some old China hand or other public-spirited member of the House may read it and come to our assistance.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 20th September.

NO RIOT ON CITY GOD'S DAY.

Last Monday's festival passed off quietly and it was not found necessary to close the gates earlier than at 6 p.m. Enormous crowds flocked into the city to pay their respects to the City God, but they were as orderly as a Chinese crowd usually is, and no disturbance took place. It is, however, rumoured that there are many members of the Triad Society in Canton. I do not know whether any have been arrested, but on Monday I saw a desperate-looking individual being carried off to prison heavily loaded with chains. The news that Admiral Ho Cheun Ching has been ordered to Canton from Kwangsi with two battalions will be welcome to nervous people.

KWANGTUNG DISORDERS.

The interior of Kwangtung province is in a state of chronic disorder. No sooner is comparative quiet restored in one district than trouble begins elsewhere. Waichow has been reduced to order, but very bad reports are coming in from Sanwui and Kongmoon, where robberies are of daily occurrence. Hongkong has certainly not a monopoly of the bad characters. The Viceroy will have a difficult task in restoring order when he returns, as the disturbances are spread over a large area, and a considerable body of men will be required to keep down the brigands.

RICE.

Meanwhile the prospects of the province seem far brighter this year than they were last year. The rice-harvest is promising, and as the rains have ceased only just in time, the crop will probably be very good. The rice-merchants have been endeavouring to create a corner, but orders have been issued by the officials, who wish to pose as beneficent rulers, that the raising of prices must cease. I should however mention, in justice to the officials, that this is their almost invariable practice where staple articles are concerned. Such are the advantages of autocratic rule.

THE M.A. EXAMINATION.

The great Master of Arts examination will begin on the 8th day of the 8th moon, the 28th instant. The Literary Chancellor arrives in Canton on Sunday, and during the week thousands of candidates will be pouring into the city from every part of the province. The arrival of such a number of visitors will be hailed with delight by the innkeepers and tradesmen, who do good business during the examination period.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

THE CASE OF CHAN KING-WA.

H. E. Shum Chau-hun has sent a memorial to the Throne reporting on the conduct of the Magistrate Chan King-wa as follows:—"Chan King-wa took over the seal of the Magistrate of Kwei-Hsien on 16th January last. Two days after his taking over the appointment, he gave orders to wash the prison completely, i.e., to kill all the prisoners, one hundred and one persons in all, the majority of whom were convicted only of minor crimes. In March last seeing that a good number of robbers were hiding themselves in the two villages named Ngoi Lung Sung and Loi Leung Sung, he sent soldiers to surround the houses and effect the capture of all persons, old and young, therein and further to destroy all the houses, which were not allowed to be rebuilt. Being afraid that his order had not been promptly carried out, he afterwards went in person to the said villages with a good number of soldiers. When he arrived he was obstructed by a leader of the robbers named Chin Kwen-fook in company with many followers, with whom he had a hot engagement. The numbers of the robbers multiplied largely, for the inhabitants of the villages were forced to join them for fear that they would be killed without mercy. When the robbers retired, he [Chan] ordered the destruction of the two said villages as well as the neighbouring villages, numbering twenty-three in all. He moreover allowed the soldiers to seize all the young women and girls, who were either married by force by the soldiers or exported to other places for sale, and to ransack the whole region. Out of the twenty-three villages in question, eleven had not a single house left standing and the others had only from one to ten per cent. of their buildings left. On that day from one hundred and sixty to one hundred and seventy innocent persons were killed, about one hundred kidnapped, some five hundred were rendered homeless and ultimately were starved to death after making good their escape, and two hundred and seventy were missing, while from two to three hundred horses and cattle were carried off by the soldiers. Whenever any prisoner was brought before him, Chan put him to the sword at once without trial, and even if the parents went to him to ask mercy for their sons, they would be put to death likewise without a word." The Viceroy asked the Imperial sanction for the execution of this cruel magistrate. In response to the memorial, an Imperial edict has been issued to the effect that Chan King-wa shall be executed at once.

DEATH OF A NOTED GENERAL.

News has reached Canton to the effect that General Fung Tsz-tsoi, a great favourite of the Emperor, who gained many distinctions in former fights, died in Kwangsi at the age of about seventy-six years in the afternoon of the 18th inst. The great General was sent by the Emperor at the request of Viceroy Shum to render him assistance to cope with the Kwangsi rebels.

A NEW OFFICIAL.

Ying Tai-sheung, the provincial treasurer of Kwangtung, who was appointed to act as governor of Kwangsi in place of Wang Chichun, is expected to arrive at Canton in a few days to resume his duty as provincial treasurer, for H.E. Aw Fung-sz, the governor-designate of Kwangsi, has arrived in the province.

The Havas Agency in Paris last month published the following semi-official *communiqué*:—"Contrary to the statements of certain journals, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as soon as he was acquainted with the demand for extradition of the Shanghai journalists, immediately pronounced for its rejection, and telegraphed instructions accordingly." We recommend this to the attention of our French contemporary in Shanghai, *L'Echo de Chine*.

The Japanese steamship company which is about to run shallow-draught steamers into Hunan waters is to be called the Hunan Kisen Kaisha. Two steamers at the Osaka Iron Works are approaching completion, while two barges built at Shanghai are expected to be ready by the end of this month. All arrangements will be finished early in November. The company will commence operations about the middle of that month.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Macao, 22nd September.

AT ITS BEST.

Macao is at its best, or very near it. Only those who have stayed or resided here can appreciate to the full what that best is; bright sunny skies, cool refreshing breezes, perfection of scenery—an ideal spot for those who for a few days wish to leave behind them the bustle and business of the city, and the confinement and monotony of the office and seek rest and recreation for weary minds and bodies. We noticed that quite a number of visitors availed themselves of the opportunity of a quiet weekend at the Boa Vista, Macao Hotel, and Hotel Internacional on Saturday last; but, numerous though they were on that occasion, we wonder that they do not come oftener or in even greater numbers. We who reside in this favoured spot would be the last to wish to see Macao degenerate into the modern and fashionable watering-place with its attendant minstrels, bathing-machines, and donkeys. We only wish that many others could share in its beauties and quiet pleasures, without any apprehensions of its developing into a Margate or a Brighton.

THE KING'S BIRTHDAY.

We hear, but do not vouch for the accuracy of the report, that the 28th inst., the King of Portugal's birthday, is not to be marked by any unusual demonstrations, fêtes, or banquets. The subjects of His Majesty will show their loyalty (in that they are not lacking), but show it in a quiet way. There will presumably be a *levée* in the morning, and the Colony will keep holiday, but we have heard nothing so far of festivities on any large scale.

IMPROVEMENTS AND OTHERWISE IN MACAO.

They that go down to the sea in ships had their hearts stirred within them when they heard that the local Government were entertaining serious thoughts of, and even inviting tenders for, the long-needed dredging of the harbour. Perhaps the project is merely dormant for a space, and perhaps we shall yet one day be hold the monsters of the deep floating in the waters of Macao, but the weeks and months are passing and we hear less instead of more of the undertaking, and see less still. Another innovation of which we have now almost immediate hopes and expectations is the lighting of the streets and principal buildings with electricity. Those who look at Macao only through the eyes of sentiment shake their heads and say that the dim and old-time illumination of the streets is more in keeping with the historic nature and old associations of the place. But to those who can take a broader view, there is no doubt that the plan is an excellent and advantageous one, and one out of several that the Colony should undertake if it is to keep as far as possible in the path of progress. But—and we speak now from the point of view of the lover of natural scenery—there is one tendency which we cannot but condemn—the tendency of the builder and contractor to erect his architectural blocks on an otherwise beautiful landscape. We refer to the beautiful road—once before alluded to as one of the most perfect of its kind in the East—which pursues its course for some mile and a half from the outskirts of the city to the Barrier. In the first mile of its course the building fiend has mercifully so far restrained his natural impulses, and left the glories of the road well-nigh unimpaired. But on the northern shore—hard by the spot where the inhabitants of Macao are wont to assemble on summer afternoons and enjoy the delights of sands and scenery and bathing—three hideous mansions, with no pretence to architectural beauty, have sprung into existence, and—blessed Heaven, the authorities forbid!—we can dimly foresee the day when a row of eyesores will disfigure the whole length of the gently curving bay. Perhaps these fears are unfounded; we fervently hope they may be as far from truth as the present erections are devoid of beauty.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS.

Those to whom scenery appeals possibly less than other attractions rejoice in the welcome change to cool and finer weather, which enables them once more to indulge in comfort in social gaieties and recreation. The officers

of the *Diu* have re-commenced their Saturday afternoon "at-homes" at the Naval Tennis Court, and the opening day on Saturday last was very largely attended. The other tennis clubs are awaking from their summer torpor and displaying renewed energy. Bicyclists and pedestrians, of whom there are many, are once more indulging in their favourite pastimes; and even bathers find greater enjoyment now that the water is becoming cooler, and one does not have to wait anxiously for the last rays of the sun to disappear below the hills before venturing forth from the bathing shed. The band is playing regularly every week on Thursday evenings in front of Government House and on Sunday evenings in the Praya Gardens, and the numbers who attend prove that its popularity has not waned in the slightest degree. One only wonders that in these exceptionally favourable waters sailing is not a pastime which meets with greater encouragement. Now and then, but very rarely, we see the trim white sails of a tiny pleasure yacht on the waters of the inner or outer harbour, which afford endless opportunities to the devotees of the sailing art if only the devotees were more enthusiastic to avail themselves of them.

PAKHOI.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Pakhoi, 16th September.

The Italians have a saying: "*Nulla nuova, buona nuova*," i.e., "The best news is no news," which is very true, but, unfortunately, one cannot always hold back ill tidings. Before proceeding farther, allow me to correct an error in my previous communication. The Native Customs and *lekin*-stations that were pillaged and razed to the ground were not in Yamchow proper, but in Ch'edong Tou, a market town several miles distant from Yamchow.

THE REBELS.

The rebels near Yamchow are growing bolder every day. The latest news to hand is that they attacked the village of Fong Seng on the 3rd inst. After robbing everything worth carrying away they left, but compelled about one hundred of the village people, it is stated, to follow them under escort, to be held for ransom. This new device adopted by the rebels lately to oppress the people seems to work well and to be remunerative to them. Fong Seng is about one day's march from Yamchow prefecture, and this news could not fail to create fear in the inhabitants of the latter place, with the result that many families have already arrived at Pakhoi for safety. It is generally believed that unless some prompt relief be at hand to strengthen the hands of the authorities, Loongmoon, Yamchow and Tung Hing will fall into the unmerciful clutches of the rebels, whose daring has now exceeded any of their less recent ventures. As regards Tung Hing—which is opposite Monkay and divided only by a narrow river—the French are said to have promised their support in case of an attack, and it is reported that a few hundred French troops are stationed at Monkay ready for emergencies.

DEATH OF A CHINESE GENERAL.

Chow Chun Pong, the *Hip-t'oi*, or Brigadier-General of Loongmoon, who came over for the special purpose of saying good-bye to Admiral Ho on the latter's departure for Canton last month, succumbed on the 14th instant, after an illness of one month's duration. The deceased felt uneasy immediately after seeing the Admiral off, and had been confined to bed ever since, sinking gradually all the time; the advice given him by numerous native medics proved of no avail. As no foreign doctors were consulted, I cannot ascertain the nature of the deceased's complaint. Fully one week before he died he was conscious that his end was near, as he had arranged all his affairs, dressed in his best clothes, and was holding all the time in his hands a few dollars—a curious superstitious practice, by the bye, amongst the well-to-do class.

H.B.M. CONSUL BACK.

Mr. H. A. Little, H.B.M.'s Consul, returned on the 14th instant to resume his post, having left here about the middle of July last for a short holiday.

YUNNAN.

Chaotung, 17th August.

THE LINGAN REBELLION.

The Liungan Rebellion is officially reported as over. The cities captured by the rebels are again in the hands of the Government. The leader of the rebels is said to have been beheaded and his head has been exposed to the public gaze at Yunnanfu. The leader of the Imperial troops, Liu Chuen-lin, has been liberally rewarded and made a triumphal entry into Yunnanfu on his return from the south. Liu Chuen-lin was at one time Prefect of Chaotung, and is remembered to this day as a great hater of yamen-runners. His father at one time suffered severely at the hands of some members of this notorious fraternity and the son had his revenge. Any runner found guilty of misdemeanour was promptly put in irons. From the frequency of this punishment Liu earned for himself the sobriquet of "Li of the Iron Bars." His promotion to his present position of Provincial Judge has not been rapid, he being over 70 years of age. It is rumoured that he kept far away from the fighting and let his subordinates win all the victories, the reward, however, going to himself. Having succeeded in these operations he is now appointed head of all the troops in Yunnan and Kweichow and ordered to put down the Kwangsi rebellion as far as it can be done from this end.

The city of Shihping, which was reported to the Throne as having been captured by the rebels, turns out not to have been lost. The official defended himself bravely and preserved his position against all attacks. A fresh official was sent down with the army to govern the city on its re-capture but to his chagrin he found the old official very much in charge and refusing to be considered as captured or dead or as anything other than a loyal successful servant of the Emperor. It is expected that those at the head of affairs who sent in the false report to the Throne will be reprimanded for so doing. Rumour also says that the leader of the rebels has not been captured and that the exposed head was that of some one else, very likely that of some inoffensive person.

The post is running freely between Tonkin and Yunnan but merchants are very chary as to sending goods.—N.-C. D. N.

HSIANFU.

The N.-C. Daily News correspondent writes on the 20th August an account of a visit to the Imperial Palace at Hsianfu. "The common people are not allowed inside, but we were permitted to go anywhere we would, and those in charge were very willing to show us round. Entering by a gate from the canal we found ourselves within a courtyard, almost filled with bricks which are to be used in repairing the dragon pool within the park. Several hundred soldiers have been working for more than two years to get water from a river to flow in from the city to fill the dragon pool in the palace park, which has been broken down and dry. The water is also to fill the trenches round the city. There are rumours that when all these works have been carried out the Emperor will come to Hsianfu to live. This, however, is digressing from my account of the palace. From the first courtyard we passed to another, long and narrow in shape. Here is the largest building, formerly used as the audience hall. On the far side is yet another courtyard containing the apartment wherein the tablets of the Empress Dowager and the Emperor lie on a table with an old-fashioned clock between them. In an enclosure to the left are the apartments occupied by the Emperor while the Court was at Hsianfu. The rooms are small and mean compared with the rest of the palace. The gardens are beyond. In the suite of rooms, near the entrance, which was occupied by the Empress, there were still hanging fragments of red and yellow silk embroideries."

It was officially notified in Singapore on the 15th inst. that Negapatam had become an infected port owing to an outbreak of cholera there.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MARCO POLO AND THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hoihow, 17th September.

SIR,—In the last paragraph of your interesting review of the 3rd edition of Yule's *Marco Polo* reference is made to Polo's failure to mention the Great Wall of China and to the discredit which has been thrown upon his work on that account.

The words there used and the Chinese work referred to remind me of a theory broached by me in a paper read some fifteen years ago before the Royal Archaeological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland and subsequently published in its *Journal*, which is in fact the theory quoted by your reviewer, namely, that the real old great wall had fallen into decay, and the new, or Ming, wall had not been built, so that Polo's omission to refer to either is fully accounted for. I pointed out also that not only one but several walls were built before the time of the so-called "Builder of the Great Wall," the Emperor Ch'in Shih, and that he simply united and extended those which the princes of some of the northern States had erected on their frontiers. I showed, moreover, that Marco Polo must have crossed the line of the wall no less than four times, and that Col. Yule's solution of the difficulty that the wall "was in Polo's mind" when he referred to "the country not the rampart, be it noted" of Gog and Magog" was highly unsatisfactory, since, so far from this being a reason for omitting to allude to it, it would have been just the reverse: His want of success in finding a reason for the application of the name [to the country] would not have caused him to withhold all notice of what would have been to him one of the most remarkable objects in the whole of his long journey. In fact, had the wall been there, he would have had staring him in the face the very proof of which he was in search.

A copy of my paper, as well as of another which contained a solution of what I may call the "park" difficulty at Xanadu, was sent at the time to Col. Yule, and it is possible that M. Cordier has taken a hint from it in revising this paragraph of Yule's classic work.

I refer to this here, not because it matters, when the truth is reached, whether he by whom it is reached is named Tom, Dick, or Harry, but because I am convinced that your reviewer is perfectly right in defending Marco Polo (what a delightful travelling companion Messer Marco has been to many of us!) on this point. Had the Great Wall been anything like it is commonly supposed to be, and had it held any conspicuous place in native estimation, so careful and accurate an observer could not have failed to make mention of it—an object which has been ranked among the "seven wonders of the world." But it must be obvious to anyone who has examined the matter on the spot, that the prevailing idea of the Great Wall is founded on the long line which runs on most maps from the Gulf of Liaotung to Chia-yü Kuan in Kansu, combined with ideas derived from visits to or photographs of the new, or inner, Great Wall (rightly so called, but built in the Ming dynasty, long after Polo's time). The idea of the structure is taken from the latter, and of its length from the former: hence a pseudo-idea not representing the true state of the case.

For those who have formed their impressions of the old wall from inspection of the structure itself, or what remains of it, and who have not deceived themselves by believing that it ever was as substantial as the newer Ming wall, Marco's credit for carefulness and accuracy of observation requires no defence. As regards this old wall, I would even go further, and, relying on the evidence given in the paper above referred to, namely, that at a distance from the centre of government the ukase was probably laxly enforced, and that the "squeeze" system was doubtless at least as rampant then as it is now, would state my belief to be that at least in many parts of the "1400 miles its extent" the Great Wall never existed at all. Rather than the supposed greatness of the old

Great Wall being evidence against the accuracy of Marco Polo, I think that the silence of Marco Polo is evidence against the greatness, and in places of the very existence of the Great Wall, and that it never merited the title of "the most noticeable work of man on the globe."—Yours, etc.,

E. T. C. WERNER.

SUPREME COURT.

Saturday, 19th September.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

HOP SHING TONG v. KWOK CHUI HUI.

Judgment was given in the action brought by Kwongsui Hing, Kwong Kam Chuen, Lau Chung Ming, and Tang Pui Cheong, *alias* Pui Cheung Tong, trading under the name of Hop Shing Tong, against Kwok Chui Hin, of 18, Connang Road Central, to recover the sum of \$1,000 due on a promissory note given by the defendant to the plaintiffs, and dated 31st May, 1903.

Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. E. J. Grist, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, solicitors), appeared for the plaintiffs, and the Hon. H. E. Pollock, K. C. (barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. G. K. H. Brutton, solicitor), represented the defendant.

In giving judgment his Lordship said the plaintiffs and defendant were partners in Bismarck and Co., a firm carrying on business in Hongkong and Port Arthur. At the end of last year a fire occurred in the premises at Port Arthur and the insurance company or companies paid over \$115,000. The plaintiffs were naturally interested in that sum, and as they knew nothing about the working of the Port Arthur business they made enquiries from defendant as to what had become of the money. Well, they got no satisfactory answer, and they could not get any accounts, and so some sort of friction arose. Finally, it was arranged that the partnership should be dissolved on the promise that plaintiffs should carry on the Hongkong business and that defendant should take the Port Arthur branch. Then the question arose as to how much defendant should pay for the Port Arthur business. They could not come to terms, and a telegram was sent to the agent at Port Arthur asking him to state the full value of the business there. In due course a telegram returned, stating: "Landed property (brick-kiln), capital \$10,000, valued at 80 per cent.; capital account for goods, \$25,000, at 70 per cent.; damaged goods, \$10,000, at 50 per cent. After settling off outstanding debts amount on current accounts \$6,800. Total estimated amount in Port Arthur and Dalny \$37,000." On the face of that telegram the parties took it that that was the value of the property and further negotiations were made upon it. It was arranged that the defendant should pay \$25,000 for the Port Arthur property. Apparently some \$16,000 was paid in cash, or some other way, and according to plaintiffs the balance was to be paid in promissory notes, one of which was the subject of the action. That was the plaintiffs' story. Now, the defendant stated that he did not sign promissory notes; that he signed documents to the effect that he would pay the Hop Shing Tong the exact amount of \$1000, being capital for goods. He also said that there was a verbal condition that payment was not to be made until the accounts in the Port Arthur business had been inspected. The plaintiffs denied that, and he thought he might as well dispose of the point at once, and say that it was a most dangerous thing to import a verbal agreement into documentary matters upon the unsupported evidence of one party. It was distinctly agreed that the term should be one month in which repayment should be made. The defendant denied that it was on the document that he signed, and stated that it was put in afterwards. It was rather an invidious thing for a European to offer an opinion upon Chinese handwriting, but he had to do it. After examining the characters he was strongly of opinion that the alleged additions were in the same handwriting as the other

portion. The only way that he could explain the lightness of the ink in places was that the pen got empty at that particular moment. He would also like to remark that in the early part of the case the documents were described by the defendant in his affidavit as promissory notes, and it was only later on that he found out that they were acknowledgments of indebtedness. There were two reasons why he could not conceive that these should be forgeries. If the same man was going to make additions it seemed to him that he would have been a fool if he did not try to keep the writing closer, and if the time had been altered why was it not made payment on demand instead of a month hence? With regard to the telegram, his opinion was that it was sent with the intention of stating that the assets were worth \$37,300, and he had a strong suspicion that the letter was invented for the purpose of the present case. Under the circumstances it seemed to him that he was bound to believe plaintiffs and not defendants and he would therefore give judgment for plaintiffs with costs and interest.

The Hon. Mr. Pollock asked for stay of execution. The money was in Court and he wanted to consider the question of appeal.

His Lordship allowed a stay for a fortnight conditionally on all costs and interest being paid into Court.

The Court adjourned.

Monday, 21st September.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M.
GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

PEAK SHOOTING CASE.

Curt Vincenz, was indicted for shooting with intent to do grievous bodily harm and with unlawful wounding at Victoria Peak, on the 3rd inst. The Attorney-General (Hon Sir H. S. Berkeley), instructed by the Crown Solicitor, Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, prosecuted on behalf of the Crown, and Mr. M. W. Slade (instructed by Mr. H. W. Looker of Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) defended.

Vincenz pleaded not guilty, and added I wounded the man, I cannot deny that, but I did not intend to hurt him.

Mr. Slade: I think that is a plea of guilty on the second count.

The Attorney-General: Defendant clearly understands?

Mr. Slade: Yes. As counsel for the defendant I advised him to plead guilty to wounding.

His Lordship:—The question is whether the Attorney-General accepts that plea.

The Attorney-General:—Yes, I am prepared to accept the plea of unlawful wounding. I do so because on the facts of the case I am unable to bring my own mind to believe that there was any intent on the part of defendant to do what he did. In committing an unlawful act when he had a revolver with him, even if it went off accidentally, he would have to stand the consequences of injuring through criminal negligence one of His Majesty's subjects. I am prepared to accept the plea of unlawful wounding.

His Lordship:—It was an unlawful act for him to have a revolver in his possession.

Mr. Slade:—Yes, my Lord. Continuing, Counsel said that defendant who had pleaded guilty to the charge of injuring a chair-coolie through having in his possession, unlawfully, a revolver which went off, had been for the past nine years, without a single break, in the interior of Sumatra tobacco-planting, where the life of a planter was a singularly hard one. He had a very lonely time, was in a very unhealthy climate, and had beneath him numbers of Chinese coolies, who were under no restraining hand excepting his own. He was a solitary European amongst hundreds of ignorant Chinese coolies, the very drags of China, and although the laws were as strict and as sternly enforced as in any British colony a man was bound to carry a revolver for his own protection. Riots among the coolies were of not infrequent occurrence, and never a year went by without many European officers being badly beaten, wounded, and sometimes killed. At the time a

crop is due this was particularly the case, there being always trouble between coolies and their masters, because the former think they can obtain more pay by violence. So after nine years' service in which he suffered considerably from malarial fever, the defendant came to Hongkong and, probably unaware at the time that he could not carry a revolver, continued to do so. On the day in question he went from the Peak Hotel, where he was residing, and engaged a chair to take him to the Peak flagstaff. He went up, and while there took shelter for some time from a passing rainstorm. According to the admissions of the chair-coolies he had no quarrel with them, used no harsh words and never requested them to hurry. While on the way down defendant took a revolver from his pocket and the front coolie was shot. Counsel said he himself asked the defendant how the affair came to pass, and presumptions from the answers he gave were that he simply did not know how the thing happened. Practically the only thing that he could remember was that he took the revolver out of his pocket and turned it on its side to see whether the lever was safe or not. After that his mind was practically a blank. He believed that the first shot went off owing to his carelessness in having his finger on the trigger, but how the second shot came to be fired he could offer no explanation whatever. Proceeding, Counsel said one quite understood if the first shot had gone off accidentally and wounded the coolie that the second might have been equally accidental. The first wound was on the fore-arm, where the coolie was holding the chair, and the second shot grazed his hip. It was probable that the first shot grazed his arm and the second his hip. If defendant fired at the man intentionally he could scarcely help hitting him, and it would be seen from the depositions that, according to the evidence, the wound on the hip might have been caused by a bullet ricochetting from the ground. Counsel suggested that the first shot went off while defendant was examining the revolver, and the second after the chair had been put on the ground, at a time when defendant was greatly agitated. Fortunately the coolie was only slightly wounded and sustained no permanent injuries of any kind. In accepting the plea of unlawful wounding, Mr. Slade submitted that the Attorney-General had shown a very clear appreciation of the real facts of the case. There was no intention to do hurt, no real intention to do injury, and no really evil intention of any sort, but defendant was unlawfully carrying a revolver and, under the circumstances, must plead guilty to unlawful wounding. Counsel said he did not know whether he was exceeding his duties or not, but inquiries were made at his (Counsel's) instigation, through the police—so there could be no suspicion of undue motive—as to what compensation the coolie thought ought to be paid him, and the injured man said \$25, adding that he did not want defendant punished. Of course, that could not be the end of the case. There were the interests of the public to be considered, but Counsel submitted those interests would be safeguarded in this case by a very light sentence. The defendant was not a blood thirsty ruffian, nor a danger to society; but had erred more in ignorance of our law regarding the carrying of a revolver, than from any vicious intention. Mr. Slade said he was authorised by the German Consul, the defendant being a German subject, to say that he would undertake to see that the defendant left the Colony by the next German mail steamer. Therefore, the colony would be quit of the defendant's presence for a time, and, if his Lordship saw fit, he would undertake, on behalf of the accused, that reasonable compensation was paid to the coolie. Under those circumstances he asked his Lordship to deal lightly with the defendant.

His Lordship:—Who is the accused, a German, an Austrian, or what? Mr. Slade:—A German.

His Lordship:—I presume inquiries have been made as to his mental condition?

Mr. Slade:—Yes, my Lord, and the result of it is that at the present time the man is absolutely sane. According to a statement I have here, the inference drawn by a doctor who saw him, is that at the time of the shooting he must have been suffering from some hallucination or something of that kind; but it does not carry the matter any further.

His Lordship, turning to the prisoner, said—Curt Vincenz, you have pleaded guilty to the offence of unlawfully wounding this coolie who was carrying you in a chair. I cannot bring myself, having very carefully read the depositions, to the opinion that this was an accident. At first I thought that surely you must be insane when you committed the deed. But the law is very clearly laid down by Sir James Fitzjames Stephen as regards sanity in these words: Every person is presumed to be sane and to be responsible for his acts. The burden of proving that he is irresponsible is upon the accused person, but the jury may have regard to his appearance and behaviour in Court. It is quite clear that the defence of insanity has not even been set up, and certainly has not been proved. Now, I must put that theory entirely on one side. If you were insane you would not be responsible at all, whereas you yourself have pleaded guilty, under the advice of your able Counsel, to unlawfully wounding. It certainly is an extraordinary case, but there have been men in criminal cases who have been so callous and cruel in their nature that they seem to have little regard to the pain and suffering which they cause other people, and I cannot help thinking you were in some such mood on that occasion when you came down from the flagstaff to the Peak carried by the two coolies. It is absolutely necessary that I should protect every person in this Colony who is going about his work lawfully and industriously. I have taken all things into consideration, and I give due weight to what has been stated about you having been a long time down in Sumatra having suffered from malarial fever, but at the same time I feel that the least sentence that I can pass upon you is that you be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for twelve calendar months.

FALSIFIED ACCOUNTS.

Ng Chi Kin, alias Ng Kwan, was charged with falsifying accounts in the books of the Shu Yuen Bank, on May 14th, May 25th, and June 17th respectively. He pleaded guilty to the three charges, but stated that the prosecutor was aware of the three false entries and had promised that he would not prosecute him.

The prosecutor claimed that he had lost about \$4,000 by the falsification of the accounts, and was not aware of the action of the accused until a few days before he commenced proceedings. The accused was a trusted servant, handled the money, and had a salary of \$12 a month.

Prisoner was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment on each count—three years altogether.

RETURNING FROM BANISHMENT.

Yam Ki alias Lam Tan, alias Tan On, was charged with returning on the 11th September from banishment, and disobeying an order dated the 28th July, 1903, prohibiting him from residing in the Colony for five years.

Prisoner pleaded not guilty, claiming that he had not been banished, and that he had been arrested because he quarrelled with the detective.

The Attorney-General prosecuted, and the following was the jury:—Messrs. A. E. Katsch, K. D. Mistry, J. McCubbin, G. Banker, W. F. Muat, B. E. Hastings and C. L. G. Koch.

Prisoner was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment, the jury returning a verdict of guilty without leaving the box.

THEFT.

Fung Min was charged with stealing a satchel containing jewellery and money to the value of \$2,500. The prisoner pleaded not guilty.

The Attorney-General prosecuted.

The jury consisted of Messrs. A. Uphill, A. E. Katsch, K. D. Mistry, A. D. Barretto, G. Banker, A. B. Smith, and W. Schumacher.

The Attorney-General said that the robbery was one which contained peculiar points. It appeared that a Mr. Herman went into Hip-tool's shop, where the accused was employed as assistant, and by accident left the satchel (which was left in his care by the owner) on the counter. He left the shop to go to the Post Office, and on his way noticed his loss. He immediately returned to Hip-tool's shop and asked accused and two other assistants if they had seen the bag. All denied knowledge of the bag, and Mr. Herman, after asking some ladies to watch the three assistants, went to the door and called two policemen in. He offered a reward of \$20 for the recovery of the bag, and the accused took a hooked stick and brought the bag from under a shelf, and handed

it over. He was at once given in charge for the theft.

Evidence for the prosecution having been led, Fung Min said in defence that he was straightening up the goods in the shop, and saw the satchel lying on the counter. He picked it up, and in about a quarter of an hour the complainant returned and said something to the Indian assistant, which he did not understand. On the Indian assistant telling him in Chinese that Mr. Herman had lost a satchel he at once returned it.

The jury without retiring found accused guilty, and His Lordship sentenced him to one month's imprisonment.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

FORGED BANKNOTE.

An Chak pleaded not guilty to offering, uttering and disposing of a forged \$5 note of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation on the 3rd September.

Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., instructed by Mr. Bonner, of Messrs. Denny and Bowley, prosecuted on behalf of the Attorney-General. The jury consisted of Messrs. N. G. Major, J. G. Kinnaird, F. A. Chopard, J. W. Barber, S. Handley, E. J. Moses, and J. F. Millar.

Mr. Sharp said the accused went to a money changer's shop to cash the note, and when the changer declared it to be a forgery the accused ran away. When chased and caught he said that a friend gave him the note to change, but would not give the name of the friend.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty and prisoner was sent to prison for twelve months with hard labour.

GANG ROBBERY.

His Honour A. G. Wise heard the charges against Chung Kwai, Tse Fat, Li Yuk, Tsang, Shang Tang Yueng, and Yeung Lung, indicted for robbing, whilst armed, Lui Chuk and Li Ut Fung, Li Ut Cheung, Yau Sz Mui and Ng Mui at In Ngam village, New Territory, on the 29th August.

All the prisoners pleaded not guilty.

The following jury was empanelled: Messrs. B. M. C. da Cunha, F. G. Allen, W. H. Watson, W. F. Muat, B. E. Hastings, A. Uphill, and R. A. E. Paterson.

Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., instructed by Mr. E. A. Bonner, of Messrs. Denny and Bowley, prosecuted on behalf of the Attorney-General. In opening the case for the Crown, he said that the men were charged as members of an armed gang consisting of about eight persons. They were strangers to the district, with the exception of the first, who, it was believed, was the leader of the gang, and for whom the police for the past four years had been searching, as he was suspected of being connected with various offences of a similar nature. On the 29th August, about seven o'clock in the evening, Liu Chuk was sitting outside of his house when the gang was seen approaching, and upon arriving the men were asked their business. They told him that if he created any disturbance he would be killed. The visitors then seized the man and struck him, and his son rushed out of the house to his assistance. He was also seized, and the second prisoner struck at him with a chopper, but his wife stepped forward, and warding the blow sustained severe injuries. A guard was placed over the father and son, and the other members of the gang, having ransacked the premises, proceeded to another house, which is practically a block of three houses, and stood a little distance away. Four of the men broke in while others kept guard. The lives of the inmates were threatened, and all their valuables demanded. They then directed their attention to the second division of the block, and the same thing happened, after which they proceeded to ransack the third division. They then cleared off, but information was at once given to the police at Taipo and a very smart capture was effected. The Taipo police telephoned through to the stations, and from there Sergt. Clark, an interpreter, and police set off, about midnight, to intercept the robbers, believing they would make a beeline for Hongkong. The police went along the new road to where the waterworks are situated and hid themselves in a small tea-house, where they remained from one o'clock in the morning till 5 a.m., when two men were seen approaching across the hills from the direction of the

village of In Ngam. The sergeant and the interpreter went up the hill and waited and arrested the first and fifth prisoners and took them to the tea-house so any other members of the gang coming up behind could not see that they had been stopped. About ten minutes later the third and fourth prisoners came along and were captured and similarly dealt with, and then the second and sixth were secured in a like manner. The men were carrying bundles, and four of them were actually wearing stolen clothes. The articles in the bundles were identified, and there was a perfectly clear case against all the men. Counsel said there had been several of that kind of robbery in the New Territory, where they appeared to be perfectly easy owing to the extensive area and the fact that the robbers took refuge across the borders. But in the present instance the men were caught red-handed, and he thought the jury would have no hesitation in saying they were guilty.

Evidence having been heard, the jury returned an unanimous verdict of guilty in each instance.

The first prisoner, described as the leader of the gang, was sent to gaol for seven years with hard labour, and ordered to receive twenty-four strokes of the birch as soon as possible, the second and third, five years with hard labour and twenty strokes, and the fourth, fifth and sixth, five years with hard labour. His Lordship commended the police for their smartness in the matter.

The Court adjourned.

Tuesday, 22nd September.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE CAINE ROAD ROBBERY.

Leung Man, a house-coolie, was charged with having on the 12th August, from Mrs. Gillanders's house, Glenwood, Caine Road, stolen four gold jewelled finger-rings, valued \$410, eight sovereigns, one Japanese gold coin, value \$10, one French gold coin, value \$10.50, one gold pencil, value \$10, three American \$10 notes—total value \$611; and four other men and a woman were charged with receiving the stolen property—Chan Lau Ching with receiving a diamond ring, value \$250; Leung Fong, a ruby ring, value \$50; Ko Yeung and Yim Yam Sang a diamond and ruby ring, value \$85; and Ip Lu, a diamond ring, value \$85, and a ruby ring, value \$50.

The first prisoner pleaded guilty and the others not guilty.

In connection with the same case, So Kan Shang, who had been charged with receiving one of the stolen rings, was brought up and discharged, the Attorney-General having decided that the evidence was not sufficient to proceed against him.

His Lordship said he thought the Attorney-General had very properly come to this resolution. Addressing So Kan Shang, his Lordship said he had bought one of the stolen rings and sent it up to Macao, but had got it back again and given it up. Under the circumstances his Lordship did not think that the evidence was sufficient to show that he knew that the ring was stolen; at the same time, although it was quite right not to put him on his trial, his Lordship would caution him to be very careful, when diamond rings were knocking about in this fashion at small prices, as to whether they had been come by honestly. His Lordship would strongly recommend him not to buy any more such rings and send them to Macao; it looked very suspicious if you sent them to Macao, as if you were afraid to sell them in Hongkong. The case was not before him of course, but he was only giving the man friendly advice.

So Kan Shang was discharged.

The following jury was empanelled to try the five accused who had pleaded not guilty:—Messrs. J. W. Barber, B. E. Hastings, W. H. Watson, W. G. Clarke, A. Brook Smith, G. Rapp, and A. D. Barretto.

The Attorney-General Hon. Sir Henry S. Berkeley (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor), conducted the prosecution. In opening the case he said the property which had

been stolen was kept in a locked bureau in Mrs. Gillanders's house. She took the precaution to have a duplicate key made, and "duly lost it." The house-coolie who had pleaded guilty found it and got a duplicate made which he kept and which was found on his person after the robbery. Evidence would be called to show that these articles were received by the other prisoners from the house-coolie. The woman's defence was that she got the ring found in her possession as a present, but it was not likely that a house-coolie could give presents worth \$250 without reasonable doubt on the part of the receiver as to whether they had been honestly come by. The other prisoners' defence was that they bought the articles, and in each case it would be shown that they paid small sums for these valuable articles. The case for the Crown was that the house-coolie stole the goods and that the other prisoners received them knowing them to have been stolen.

Evidence was heard.

The jury found the charges proven against all the prisoners.

His Worship sentenced the first prisoner the house-coolie, to two years' imprisonment with hard labour, the female prisoner to one month's hard labour, the third, fourth, and fifth to six months' each, and the sixth to eighteen months'. His Worship commended the police for the way they had worked in following up the case and recovering the stolen goods. This praise falls upon Sergeant 64 O'Sullivan, Sergeant Wilden, and Chinese Detective 338, through whose untiring investigations the whole gang were brought to book.

The property was ordered to be restored to Mrs. Gillanders without compensation to the pawnbroker (the sixth prisoner) who had accepted it in pawn.

The Court rose.

SPORTING NOTES.

Daily Press, 21st September.)

The weather having now apparently become "Set Fair," there is at last some opportunity for sport in this Colony. Saturday saw the first regular match on the cricket ground, two teams of interport candidates and a few others, 23 in all, meeting one another. The game was not very encouraging, but there was obviously a want of practice which calls for a suspension of judgement on the batting. There was a good variety of bowling, Lowe coming out with the best figures. Sercombe Smith appeared to err in judgment in not utilising his changes more, for the object of the match was surely to bring on the "probables" for the Interport team, not merely to get the other side out as quickly as possible. It is not the best bowlers, as such, but the bowlers who may go to Shanghai who want the practice afforded by such matches as that on Saturday. The fielding was happily good compared with what was generally seen last season. The innovation of running out hits was welcome, for, as I pointed out just a fortnight ago, very different conditions will prevail at Shanghai, with its distant boundaries, from those of the local ground. The absence of Smith, R.A., on Saturday was a regrettable feature. This player appeared to have more than a good chance of a place in the team, but he is hardly likely to be chosen if he does not practise.

The entries for the Six-a-side Cup of the Football Club closed on Saturday. Altogether 51 names have been received, so that probably 7 teams will be able to dispute the possession of the trophy, the remainder acting as reserves. After the six-a-side competition has concluded football proper will commence. It is too early to speak of the Club's prospects at present. The newcomers are unknown quantities at present; but both the Association and the Rugby sections of the Club appear to have good seasons to look forward to.

It is to be regretted that the Boat Club will probably have to forego its intention of competing at the Shanghai Regatta. Business duties prevent two more of the hoped-for four from getting away, and there are no substitutes of sufficient strength to make it worth while to send up to Shanghai; for to go to certain defeat,

though perhaps heroic, is not exciting as a rule. It is a pity the Boat Club's aspirations have been dashed to the ground. Even a pair seems now impossible.

Naturally the Wigwam Club's lawn tennis tournament suffered a lot from the recent rains. Now, however, good progress should be made. The principal results since these Notes appeared last are:—Championship, Humphreys beat Swan, Hancock beat Edwards, Trimmingham beat Worcester. "A" class singles, Lewis beat Worcester, Barrett beat Hollingworth, Doubles, Carré and Lee beat Smyth and Tibbety, Gray and Hancock beat Barrett and Henry; "B" class singles, Smyth beat Graff, Coppin beat Pye.

Golfers have at last had an opportunity of playing the game under favourable conditions, a remark which it has not been possible to make for a long time. The chief event of the week was a mixed foursome competition for prizes presented by Mrs. Gedge. Sixteen pairs entered, and the result was as follows:—Miss Gresson and Mr. Beavis, scratch, 81; Mrs. Hastings and Mr. Gresson, 86—5=81; Mrs. Gedge and Mr. E. Deacon, 85—3=82; Mrs. Mayer and Mr. Grist, 85—2=83; Mrs. James and Mr. Parker, 84—5=84.

Snipe-shooters continue to have rather poor sport. On Sunday, the 15th inst., bags of 14 and of 7½ couple were recorded and during the week one of 12 couple, while on Friday 3 guns secured 32 couple. The haunts of the bird in the New Territory are at last in a suitable condition for walking. Meanwhile Straits pipers last week recorded the appearance of snipe in Province Wellesley, the birds being somewhat poor in appearance.

OMPAX.

CRICKET.

The first match of the Hongkong cricket season was played on the Cricket Ground on the 19th inst., two teams of what should have been twelve each under the captaincy of Messrs. Sercombe Smith and R. Hancock taking the field. Smith's team, however, was one short. The ground was in excellent condition and appeared favourable to batsmen; yet, as may be seen from the subjoined score, bowlers had the upper hand all through. Apart from the innings of Sercombe Smith, the two Hancocks, Arthur, Pearce and Turner, most of the displays with the bat were feeble in the extreme, and the immaturity of the play was painfully evident. The bowling was fair, but was of course flattered by the weak batting. The fielding, strange to say, was above the average in Hongkong. All hits were run out, which was a wise decision in view of the fact that the Interport team will have to field on the much larger Shanghai ground. The result of the game was a victory for Sercombe Smith's team by one wicket and nine runs on the first innings. The score and analysis follow:—

HANCOCK'S TEAM.

J. T. Dixon, b Cooper	1
J. E. Lee, c Lambie, b T. S. Smith	6
F. M. Itland, st. H. Hancock, b T. S. Smith	0
Lt. Dobbin, R.A., st. H. Hancock, b Lowe	10
T. E. Pearce, b Lowe	18
Capt. P. G. Davies, A.O.D., c Lambie, b Lowe	9
A. G. Ward, c Cooper, b Lowe	1
— Day, b Lowe	3
A. Wilson, R.N., run out	1
T. C. Gray, c Lambie, b T. S. Smith	2
R. Hancock, c T. S. Smith, b Mackenzie	28
H. Arthur, not out	30
Extras	4

Total.....105

SERCOMBE SMITH'S TEAM.

D. Piper, b Lee	5
A. R. Lowe, b Dixon	4
W. C. D. Turner, c Ward, b Pearce	26
Lt. Rimington, c Gray, b Dixon	0
R. F. O. Bird, b Davies	12
C. R. S. Cooper, c Gray, b Pearce	2
C. Riach, R.A., b Davies	9
P. T. Lambie, run out	1
A. Mackenzie, b Davies	0
H. Hancock, not out	23
T. Sercombe Smith, not out	11
Extras	21

Total.....114

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

HANCOCK'S TEAM.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Sercombe Smith	12	1	48	3
Cooper	6	4	5	1
Lowe	1	—	27	5
Bird	8	—	10	—
Mackenzie	25	—	11	1

SERCOMBE SMITH'S TEAM.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Dixon	10	—	23	2
Lee	7	2	21	1
Pearce	8	5	8	2
Davies	10	2	25	3
R. Hancock	4	—	16	—

THE V.R.C. AQUATIC SPORTS.

OFF DAY AND PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

At Kowloon, on Saturday, the 19th inst., the annual aquatic sports of the Victoria Recreation Club were brought to a successful conclusion, the weather, as on the previous days, being all that could be desired. The attendance was considerable, the grand stand being particularly noticeable for the large number of the gentler sex who had come to see their sterner brethren do battle for the handsome prizes which had been presented for competition. The proceedings were enlivened by selections rendered at frequent intervals by the band of the 10th Bombay Light Infantry, and the interest evinced throughout is a sufficient indication of the increasing popularity of this annual fixture.

A start was made shortly after four o'clock, the meeting terminating at six-thirty, and the officials concerned are to be heartily congratulated upon the very successful outcome of their labours.

Below we append the results:—

1. FINAL HURDLE RACE.—First prize presented by Geo. A. Richards, Esq; second prize presented.

Five started, and a closely-contested race resulted in a dead heat.

2. "GO-AS-YOU-PLEASE" RACE.—Prize presented.

In this event, for which eighteen started, the course was twice round the bath enclosure, the competitor most nearly occupying four minutes in making the double circuit to be adjudged the winner. After a good race, in which it was amusing to note the various devices resorted to by the competitors in order to "kill time," A. Rebaisa, third man home, was successful in securing the prize.

3. TEAM RACE.

This was won by Witchesell's Team, after a most exciting struggle, the winning side being deserving of the warmest praise.

4. BLIND MAN'S BUFF RACE (One Length).

Winners:—A. S. Marti and W. S. Andrews. Fourteen started, blindfold, seven a-side, the conditions of the race requiring each competitor to discover his partner on the opposite side, and then to pluck an apple suspended from a pole over the water.

5. TEAM RACE (CHALLENGE).—V.R.C. v. Docks.

Teams of four a-side entered for this event, and a much closer contest resulted than had been anticipated, the V.R.C. only "going under" by the narrow margin of three seconds. Time: V.R.C., 2 min. 55 sec.; Docks, 2 min. 52 sec.

6. CONSOLATION RACE (Two Lengths).—First prize presented by Mr. E. M. Hazeland. Result:—J. A. Alves was adjudged the winner, his time being 46½ sec.

7. WATER POLO MATCH (Blues v. Whites).—This was the last event on the programme. The Whites proved too strong for the Blues, their forwards combining more effectively, and although the latter made several plucky endeavours to score, they were defeated by three goals to none.

The presentation of prizes took place in the Gymnasium, Mrs. C. G. Robinson, wife of Commodore Robinson, R.N., kindly undertaking their distribution. The championship of the V.R.C. was won for the third year in succession by N. H. Alves—a notable performance.

The Chairman, Mr. Arthur Chapman, in thanking Mrs. Robinson for the honour she had done the club in consenting to distribute the prizes, took occasion to remark on the particularly fine form displayed throughout the meeting by the junior members, and earnestly exhorted those who had been unsuccessful on the present occasion not to lose

heart, but to persevere in their training, and hope for better things next year. He expressed his confident opinion that, although, as time passed, the older members might be compelled to relinquish active participation in the sports, he had no doubt but that the younger members would prove worthy successors. Heartly cheers testified to the cordial agreement of the assemblage with the sentiments expressed by the Chairman.

After Commodore Robinson, R.N., had addressed the company on behalf of Mrs. Robinson, the proceedings terminated.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE AQUATIC SPORTS.

Swimming is one of the most popular and healthful of recreations in Hongkong for boys, and it is good to see the masters of the schools taking such a lively interest in the physical as well as intellectual development of their scholars. This was shown in the attendance of the teachers at the V.R.C. enclosure on Wednesday afternoon, the occasion being the annual aquatic sports of Queen's College. Weather conditions were favourable to a successful meeting, and the competing youngsters with their friends enjoyed themselves thoroughly. Most interest centred in the race for the Championship of the College, with which goes possession of the Yellow Dragon Cup. H. Bunji was the fortunate winner of the event this year, and with two first prizes and one second divided the honours of the meeting with his brother, who had the same number standing to his name.

Subjoined is the programme:—

CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE COLLEGE (FOUR LENGTHS).—1st prize the Yellow Dragon Cup, to be won two years in succession. 2nd prize presented by Mr. B. Tauner. 1. H. Bunji; 2. C. Bunji.

PLUNGING.—Open to all comers. 1st prize presented by Mr. A. W. Grant. 2nd prize presented. 1. U. Alarakia; 2. M. Souza.

SWIMMING UNDER WATER.—1st prize presented by Mr. R. E. O. Bird. 2nd prize presented. 1. C. Bunji (65 feet); 2. H. Bunji.

TWO LENGTHS IN CLOTHING (hat, coat, trousers, and socks).—1st prize presented by Mr. E. Ralphs. 2nd prize presented. 1. C. Bunji; 2. R. Galluzzi.

PLUNGING.—1st prize presented by Mr. W. R. Seymour. 2nd prize presented. 1. M. Souza; 2. H. Watling.

TWO LENGTHS HANDICAP.—1st prize presented by Mr. A. H. Cook. 2nd prize presented. 1st heat—1. H. Bunji; 2. C. Alarakia. 2. C. Maikai. Final—1. H. Bunji; 2. C. Alarakia.

TWO LENGTHS (Open).—1st prize presented by Dr. Bateson Wright. 2nd prize presented. 1. N. Alarakia; 2. Wang Shin Cheung.

TEAM RACE.—1. C. Bunji; 2. H. Bunji. At Queen's College on Saturday, Dr. Bateson Wright, D.D., will present the prizes.

HONGKONG FOOTBALL CLUB.

The seven teams that will compete for the Six-a-side Challenge Cup and Medals are as follows:—

C. T. Kew (Capt.), H. W. Sayer, R. Henderson, H. C. Austen, A. B. de Veuille, R.N., W. R. Robertson.

W. W. Clark (Capt.), W. T. Caulfield, R.E., J. Johnstone, O. J. Barnes, W. A. Crake, L. Chesney, R.E.

J. D. Danby (Capt.), G. B. Macdonald, R.A., H. A. Seth, E. B. Pye, J. P. Jordan, S. Henchman.

J. W. C. Bonnar (Capt.), H. S. Holmes, C. Humphreys, F. D. Bair, A. R. Rogers, W. A. Stopani.

H. A. Brent (Capt.), H. S. Gaskell, R.E., J. M. Forrester, W. A. Rowley, R.N., P. H. Campbell, R.E., J. H. A. Hance.

W. G. Worcester (Capt.), A. Boyd, Dr. Kew, H. C. Sandford, C. C. Hickling, A. O. Braun.

C. D. C. Wolfe (Capt.), A. Humphreys, R. H. Craig, W. H. Williams, H. R. Robinson, R.N., E. J. Davies.

The following will act as substitutes:—Messrs. C. B. Hayward, H. M. Bain, S. A. Seth, J. H. Seth, P. S. Jameson, E. A. Hankey,

T. C. Gray, J. Burnstow, J. W. Crouch, and G. Gittings. Also any new members*joining after this date and the last two mentioned players in the above seven teams may act as substitutes.

Kick-off:—Not later than ten minutes past five. Off-side:—Two players.

The matches will be played as follows:—

- September 28. Clark v. Bonnar;
Worcester v. Brent
30. Kew v. Danby
Wolfe v. Bonnar
October 2. Clark v. Worcester
Brent v. Wolfe
5. Clark v. Kew
6. Clark v. Brent
7. Wolfe v. Danby
8. Brent v. Kew
Danby v. Worcester
12. Kew v. Bonnar
Wolfe v. Clark
14. Clark v. Danby
15. Bonnar v. Brent
Wolfe v. Worcester
16. Kew v. Worcester
Danby v. Brent
19. Wolfe v. Kew
Danby v. Bonnar
20. Worcester v. Bonnar

The Club colours are white crepe shirt, dark blue knickers and stockings.

A RIVAL TO THE PACIFIC MAIL.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* records the arrival last month in San Francisco of Mr. Eng Hok Fong, president and general manager of the China Commercial Steamship Company, which recently established a line of steamships between Hongkong, Mexico and the Pacific Coast ports. He was met upon his arrival by Lyman D. Mowry, general counsel of the company, who was to accompany him on a trip to Washington, D. C., and the City of Mexico. President Eng said that his trip was on business connected with the steamship company. He intended to go to Washington to see the Chinese Minister, and from there to the Mexican capital to talk with some of the Mexican officials about matters in which his company is interested. "We have met with considerable opposition from the Pacific Mail since we established our line of steamers across the Pacific," said President Eng, "but we are in the field to stay. In its efforts to drive us out of the business the Pacific Mail has cut freight and passenger rates until there is no profit in the business at present. The rate on flour has been cut from \$5 to \$1 a ton, the rate on general merchandise has been reduced from \$8 to \$4 a ton, and the steerage passenger rate has been reduced from \$50 to \$15. I believe, however, that we will be able to stand it as long as the Pacific Mail. We have plenty of capital behind our company. It is all furnished by Chinese who have confidence in the company, and we are determined to remain in the field to the end."

The China Commercial Steamship Company has four steamships plying between China and Manzanillo, Mexico, with San Francisco as a port of call on the return trip. President Eng says that this fleet is to be increased in the near future by the addition of two more vessels.

ROBBERY AT VLADIVOSTOK.

A recent visitor to Vladivostok, reports the *Kobe Chronicle*, had a somewhat unfortunate experience there. He proceeded to Vladivostok from Japan by the *Kobe-maru* with the intention of going on to Europe by the Trans-Siberian railway. Having made all arrangements for the transfer of his baggage, and said "good-bye" to his fellow passengers, he went on shore, where the train leaves from the wharf at which the vessels lie. He had not been absent from the ship, however, more than about seven minutes, when he returned and said that between the vessel and the train he had been robbed of 900 roubles and a letter of credit to the value of \$3,000 gold. Information was given to the police, who came down and wanted to arrest every Japanese on board the vessel, on the principle, apparently, that only the Japanese could be capable of such a crime, but the visitor said he was perfectly

certain that when he left the ship his pocket-book was safe, as his last act on leaving the vessel was to feel in his pocket to assure himself of its security; and he was positive that it must have been stolen from him as he was about to enter the train. The police, who were evidently disappointed at not being given permission to make a wholesale arrest of Japanese, were unable to trace the perpetrator of the theft, which is hardly to be wondered at when it is considered that the money was taken in the midst of a crowd.

It was also found that a part of the Trans-Siberian Railway was not in working order, and after his experiences on shore the American gentleman thought it best to return to Japan, considering that it would be more comfortable and perhaps safer to proceed to Europe by sea.

HONGKONG.

We regret to hear that Senhor A. G. Romano, Consul-General for Portugal, is confined to bed, suffering from what is thought to be a ruptured internal artery. Dr. Rennie is attending on the patient.

The manager of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia & China informed us on Thursday that he had that morning received from the London office a telegram advising that a dividend has been declared for the past half year to the 30th June at 10 per cent. per annum, free of income tax.

It will have been noted with satisfaction that the police have issued widely throughout the city red bills with an offer of \$500 reward for information leading to the capture of the recent daylight burglars in Belilios Terrace. We understand also that several arrests have been made on suspicion.

Among the arrivals by the *Australian* on Thursday morning was Sir David Evans, K.C.M.G., who was Lord Mayor of London in 1891-92. He is head of the firm of Richard Evans and Co., trimming-manufacturers, and director of the Anglo-Foreign Bank and the Hand-in-Hand Insurance Society. He was born in 1849.

It is with regret we announce the death of Mr. H. Brost, foreman shipwright in the Kowloon Docks. He died from dysentery on Thursday morning. Mr. Brost had been in the service of the Dock Co. for a period of about 10 years and was 53 years of age. He leaves a widow and two of a family, one of them a married daughter. The funeral took place on Thursday at Happy Valley.

Fire broke out at Cheungshawan, British Kowloon, on Wednesday afternoon, in a match shed used for boat-building. Five match sheds were soon completely gutted and the boats in course of building burnt. The villagers turned out with an old fire manual, but as the tide was low could not render much assistance. Chief Inspector Baker with firemen from the Central proceeded to the scene with a floating engine and kept the flames from spreading. As the match sheds were uninsured their loss will be keenly felt. The damage is estimated at \$2,000.

We regret to announce the death at Kowloon Docks on the 21st inst., from heart failure, of Mr. E. J. Main, superintendent engineer. On Saturday Mr. Main played for the Dock team, who were unsuccessful in a bowling match against Kowloon, and his death was sudden and unexpected. A native of Leith, Scotland, the deceased had been in the employ of the Dock Co. for eighteen years. He returned from a home visit about a year ago, then being promoted from the Cosmopolitan Dock to superintendent engineer at the Kowloon establishment. A wife and two children are left to mourn his death.

It was freely rumoured in the Colony on the 23rd inst. that the s.s. *Pembrokeshire* had been sold to the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha as a coal-carrier. The vessel is owned by Messrs. Jenkins & Co., registered in London, and the local agents are Messrs. Shawan, Tomes & Co. We believe that the report has its foundation in fact, although the sale has not yet been actually completed in all its details. The *Pembrokeshire* is a steel screw steamer of 4,294 tons gross, registered 100 Al at Lloyd's. She was built at Sunderland in 1901 by the Sunderland Shipbuilding Co., Ltd. Her dimensions are—length, 360ft.; breadth, 48ft. lin.; depth, 20ft. 5in.

About the 1st January next, No. 89 Co. Royal Garrison Artillery will leave Hongkong by freight-ship for India.

A Siamese Royal Decree on quarantine, applicable to British vessels and subjects, is published in the *Gazette*.

Whilst cutting grass on the hillside behind Kowloon City on the 21st inst., a Chinese woman slipped, fell over a precipice about 150 feet high, and was killed.

Singapore has withdrawn the quarantine hitherto existing against Hongkong. This was notified by a telegram of the 18th inst. to the Colonial Secretary.

One case only of communicable disease was reported in the Colony last week, the victim being a Chinese who died of plague. A fresh case was reported as occurring during the day ending at noon on the 22d inst., another Chinese having succumbed to the disease in Caine Road.

Taking warning from the saying "One never knows the want of water till the well is dry," the P. W. D. might set about the repair of leaking water-taps. The number of these to be seen in the city, both east and west, is large, and now is the time to have them put in order.

The P. W. D. are busy repairing the roof at the Central Police Station, which is at present in an unsafe condition due to the devastations of white ants. These pests give the P. W. D. plenty to keep them busy. Queen's College in the earlier part of the year had to be re-roofed at a cost of \$10,000.

The appointments are notified in the *Gazette* of Colonel L. F. Brown, R.E., as member of the Executive and Legislative Councils; of Mr. Basil R. H. Taylor as Acting Harbour-master and as Member of the Legislative Council; and of the Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson as Member of the Executive Council.

While the *Amphitrite* was lying at Mins Bay last week a stoker fell down the stoke-hole, sustaining injuries which resulted in his death. From Mins Bay the Naval Yard was communicated with by means of wireless telegraphy, and arrangements made for the funeral, which took place at Happy Valley Cemetery, at 7 a.m., on Sunday, with naval honours, the band and a firing party landing from the *Amphitrite* about 6.30.

Messrs. Benjamin, Kelly and Potts, general managers of the Oriente Hotel, Manila, inform us that a paragraph in our issue of Saturday to the effect that the hotel has not been sold to the Philippine Government, is incorrect. This, of course, is conclusive; but our information was nevertheless taken from one of the more reliable Manila papers, which devoted a considerable amount of space and a few headlines to announcing that the hotel was not to be sold.

On the 19th inst. a gentleman living at Morrison Hill discovered that a quantity of jewellery had been abstracted from his cash-box. Apparently a skeleton key had been used to unlock the box. Earlier in the week the same gentleman missed an umbrella, and on the following day lost from his house a silver watch and the new umbrella which he had just purchased to replace the other. He has now deemed it advisable to remove his valuables to the office safe.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. F. W. Potter, the Shanghai cricketer, is fortunately getting over his cholera attack.

Tokyo has now 1,839,788 inhabitants, of whom the males number 946,671.

The value of the Siam currency notes in circulation on the 31st August was Ticals 6,384,450. The whole of this sum was retained in silver at the head office.

The Director of Public Instruction in Burma has withdrawn his order regarding the *shiko* question. Burmese boys were ordered to wear their teachers, but they were promptly withdrawn from the schools instead.

The death occurred on the 11th inst., at the St. Louis Hospital, Bangkok, of Mr. H. Gragge, who came out to Siam about sixteen years ago. He had been with Messrs. A. W. Schmidt & Co., with Mr. Kinder, and in the Customs Department at Bangkok.

Many of our readers will regret to learn of the death of Sr. Don Jazé de Navarroy Lopez de Ayala, who was for some years Consul-General for Spain in Hongkong. According to the *El Imparcial* (Madrid), Sr. Navarro died at Tunis on the 14th ult.

In the British Court at Bangkok on the 8th instant, Mr. A. F. G. Tilleke and a Burmese clerk were committed for trial on a charge of receiving a large amount of jewellery, the proceeds of a recent robbery. Mr. Tilleke was admitted to bail in two sureties of £500 each.

M. Paul Vincent Lannay, a resident of Yokohama, died at Kobe on the 8th inst. He arrived at Kobe just a week before feeling unwell. During the night he became worse and a doctor was called in. The following morning choleraic symptoms developed, and he was removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital. With constant and careful attention his condition much improved for a few days, but inflammation of the kidneys and other complications developed, and M. Lannay died within a week of his arrival in Kobe. His body was cremated.

At Shanghai, on the 14th inst., the wreck and cargo of the Norwegian steamer *Spol* were put up to auction for the account of the underwriters. The hull and appurtenances were put up first, and at Tls. 3,400 the vessel was knocked down to Mr. Lui Chong Sing. The cargo of coal about 1900 tons, was next put up; the bidding went up to Tls. 2,500, when the coal was knocked down to the same gentleman who secured the vessel. Two life boats and gear were lastly put up, and after a few bids the boats were knocked down at Tls. 130 to the purchaser of the vessel and cargo, Mr. Liu Chong Sing, comprador to Messrs. Racine, Ackerman & Co.

The *Osaka Mainichi* publishes a Vienna telegram to the effect that it is believed in authoritative quarters in the capital that the Government is desirous of forming a new European concert in regard to the Far East question, and with this object has communicated with the French, the British, and Russian Governments. The same telegram further states that the negotiations which were in progress at St. Petersburg between Count Lamsdorff and Mr. Kurino, Japanese Minister, have encountered a hitch; but, as Russia has no inclination to enter upon a war, the negotiations will probably be resumed and a more favourable phase of the question opened.

The following is from the *Kobe Chronicle*:—Reverence for the Imperial family was shown in a peculiar manner in Corea recently, and fittingly rewarded according to the customs of the country. It appears that a number of soldiers were engaged in destroying worms which were playing havoc with the pine-trees surrounding the Queen's tomb. To show his loyalty to the Government or reigning family and his anger at the audacity of the worms to approach so near the Royal tomb, one of the soldiers ate a bowl full of the *mushi*. This act was reported to high quarters and the worm-eater was promptly made a captain. Unworthy imitators of the noble deed followed. One soldier was made very sick by the repast, and he failed to secure promotion, so the chances are that he will affiliate with the first revolutionary organisation he hears of.

Speaking at a general meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of Formosa, President Yagi stated that the Formosan industries had made much progress, especially in the case of tea-manufacturing and railway traffic. The value of exports during the first six months of this year was 4,500,000 yen and imports 5,700,000 yen. The exports to Japan proper were valued at 5,500,000 yen and imports at 5,200,000 yen. The export of Formosan rice showed an increase, while that of sugar decreased. The price of silver so frequently fluctuated that the Bank of Formosa had to change the exchange rate six times in the course of the half year. The price of the one yen silver coin showed a disparity of ten sen at one time. It was thought necessary therefore to change the currency system of Formosa. The amount of the Bank of Formosa's notes stood at 5,300,000 yen on an average, and of this 4,400,000 yen was in circulation, showing an increase of 700,000 yen as compared with the figures last year.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

HANKOW, 16th September.—Business reported since the 9th inst. is as follows:—Settlements, 2,385 half-chests; Shipments to Shanghai on native accounts, 2,454 half-chests, consisting of Oonams at Tls. 14.50 per picul, 1,983 half-chests Oonams at Tls. 11.00 to 22.00 per picul and 94 half-chests Ichangs at Tls. 18.00 per picul. The entire business to date, as compared with the corresponding period of last year, is estimated as under:—

	1903. 4-chts.	1902. 4-chts.
For London, America and European Continent	194,632	147,105
For Russia	531,272	507,000
	725,904	654,105

SILK.

SHANGHAI.—Messrs. A. R. Burkill and Son in their circular dated the 17th inst. state:—The home markets are unchanged. Raw Silk—a few sales of Tsatlees are reported, but there is no General buying at present. Yellow Silk.—A fair business has been done and prices have further advanced. Hand Filatures are neglected. Steam Filatures.—A few settlements of fine sizes are recorded. Waste Silk.—The market for low Waste keeps very strong, and Continental buyers are eagerly competing for all qualities. Frisonets (whole bales) have been done @ Tls. 38.39. Shantung Long Waste B have been taken @ Tls. 40 for whole bales. Business is reported in Hankow Frisonets (common, whole bales) @ Tls. 34, Kowan No. 2 (whole bales) @ Tls. 37 1/2. 38. Woozie pierced Cocoons 68/69% Silk @ Tls. 98. Curles No. 1 @ Tls. 10 1/2.

CANTON, 25th September.—Export Re-reels.—Beyond a sale early in the fortnight of 30 Bales No. 1 Yee Wo Hing's White Ticket, reported at \$825, we hear of no business in this class. Filatures.—Have ruled extremely quiet. Export is hampered by the high rates of Exchange, while reelers on the other hand hold firm and refuse to make concessions. A small business only has passed, from which we take—Wing Cheong Sing 11/13 at \$960, King Seng 11/13 at \$950, Kwong Shun Hang, Kun Wa Lun 11/13 at \$935, Yu Kig Lun 11/13 at \$915, Ching Kee 11/13 at \$900, Wai King Wo 18/22 at \$820. Best 3e Order have been dealt in sparingly at \$815 for 11/13, 18/15, \$765 for 14/18 and \$730 for 18/22. Short-reels.—A transaction of 150 bales was made early last week at \$930/925 for Miu King Lun, Kum Sing Lun, \$910 for Cheong Seng, \$900 for Mee Kee, Shun King, Kwong Seng. Apart from this there is nothing to report. Waste Silk.—The advance has continued on all classes, aided by higher prices paid for export. Steam Ext. Sel. is reported to have sold up to \$137 for "opened" and \$128 for "unopened," and Ext. Ext. "opened" has been done at \$106. We expect to see present rates at least maintained for some time to come.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 24th September.—The downward tendency continues, market being weak. Shekloong, No. 1, White.....\$8.40 to \$8.45 pel. Do. " 2, White.....6.53 to 6.78 " Do. " No. 1, Brown.....6.10 to 7.15 " Do. " 2, Brown.....5.90 to 5.95 " Swatow, No. 1, White.....8.30 to 8.35 " Do. " 1, White.....7.45 to 7.50 " Do. " 1, Brown.....5.85 to 5.90 " Do. " 2, Brown.....5.70 to 5.75 " Foochow Sugar Candy.....12.70 to 12.75 " Shekloong ".....10.80 to 10.85 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 24th September.—The prices are further declining stocks accumulated. Saigon, Ordinary.....\$3.20 to \$3.25 " Round, Good quality.....4.90 to 4.95 " Long.....5.15 to 5.20 Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2.....3.75 to 3.80 " Garden, " No. 1.....4.25 to 4.30 " White, ".....4.95 to 5.00 " Fine Cargo.....5.20 to 5.25 "

COTTON.

HONGKONG 26th Sept.—Small sales at a decline of \$1. Stock about 2,300 bales. Bombay.....23.50 to 24.00 picul Bengal (New), Rangoon and Dacca.....24.50 to 27.00 " Shanghai and Japanese, 29.00 to 30.00 " Tungchow and Ningpo, 29.00 to 30.00 " Sale:—375 bales.

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee says in his Report, dated Hongkong, 25th Sept: Shortly after the departure of last mail, holders succeeded in establishing an advance of \$1 to \$1 1/2 per bale, but transactions have not been large; the demand lasting only during the first half of the interval, and buyers confining their purchases to actual and pressing requirements. Dear money, a poor up-country demand, and above all, the vagaries of exchange, are the depressing influences. Latterly little or no business has been done, as dealers are reluctant to commit themselves in view of the uncertain position of exchange, and although both Bombay and Shanghai continue firm and active, the feeling amongst importers is not strong, and the market again closes quiet and unsteady. In the absence of demand our quotations, though showing some variation, must be considered more or less nominal. Receipts, meanwhile, have been pouring in, and with smaller off-takes our estimate of stocks shows a substantial increase of 8,000 bales during the fortnight.

Local Manufacture:—Prices keep steady, and sales of 350 bales No. 10's and 150 bales No. 12's are reported at \$101 and \$103 1/2 respectively.

Japanese Yarn:—Continues in request at firmer prices, business being confined to No. 20's, of which about 1,000 bales have been sold, say 925 bales. Red Peacock at \$126 1/2 to \$129, 100 bales Two Stags at \$125, and 75 bales yellow Joss at 123 1/2.

Raw Cotton:—A small but first importation of 150 bales New Ningpo Cotton has found ready buyers at \$30, the quality being quite up to the average. Indian descriptions continue in small request; sales reported are 438 bales good to best superfine Bengal, say 131 bales at \$27, 72 bales at \$26, 55 bales at \$25 1/2, and 200 bales at \$25, leaving an estimated unsold stock of about 2,000 bales on the market. Quotations are: India \$20 to \$27, and China \$28 to \$31.

Exchange on India continued steadily to decline during the first week and touched as low as Rs. 136. Latterly it has again taken an upward turn, and close to-day strong at Rs. 138 1/2 for T/T and Rs. 138 1/2 for Post. On Shanghai 72 1/2 and on Yokohama 90.

The undernoted business is reported from Shanghai in imported and local spinnings during the fortnight ended the 11th instant, viz:—

Indian:—Market steady; prices showing an advance of half to one Tael. Total sales aggregate 6,982 bales, comprising 2,202 bales No. 10's, 85 bales No. 12's, 535 bales No. 16's, and 3,350 bales. Estimated unsold stock about 37,000 bales.

Japanese:—Total sales 2,500 bales on the basis of Tls. 83 to 89 for No. 16's, and Tls. 90 to 94 for No. 20's, prices showing a decline of one to two Taels and market closing weak.

Local:—Very little doing and in a disappointing condition generally, sales from first hand amounting to 1,000 bales, on the basis of Tls. 84 for No. 12's, Tls. 86 for No. 14's, and Tls. 88 for No. 16's, prices showing a decline of fully two Taels all round.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 24th September.—Since the 10th inst. the movements in the Opium markets have been as follows:—

	Malwa.	Patna.	Benares.	Persian
Stocks on 27th ult., 1903.	744	1,737	637	2,557
Aug. 27, Imports per Ballarat	453	400	25	29
Sept. 1, " " Kumsang	—	15	10	—
" 8, " " C. Apcar	—	1,093	285	—
Less Exports to Shanghai	1,197	3,305	954	2,588
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight	108	175	185	—
	250	601	145	246

Estimated Stocks this day:—830 2,539 644 2,340 Bengal.—The demand is on a small scale as the Chinese are holding a fairly large stock. We quote Patna and Benares, at \$1,102 1/2. Bargains, 1,780 chests.

Malwa.—The market is steady at the following Quotations:—

New	\$1,000
2 3/4 Years old	1,060
3/4 "	1,080
Oldest	1,100/1,120

Persian.—Best qualities are scarce prices for which tend upwards. Quotations are long \$800/847 square \$750/760.

Quotations are:—Allowance net. to 1 catty. Malwa New.....\$1,000 to — per picul. Malwa Old.....\$1,060 to — do. Malwa Older.....\$1,080 to — do. Malwa V. Old.....\$1,100 to — do. Persian fine quality.....\$840 to — do. Persian extra fine.....\$820 to — do. Patna New.....\$1,162 1/2 to — per chest. Patna Old.....\$1,105 to — do. Benares New.....\$1,102 1/2 to — do.

COALS.

HONGKONG, 25th September.—About 5,600 tons of Welsh, 32,500 tons Japan, and 3,000 tons Hongay and Kebao coal are expected, but only the Welsh coal is for sale. Quotations are:—

Cardiff.....\$20.50 to \$21.00 ex ship offering. Australian \$10.50 ex ship sellers. Yubari Lump.....\$12.00 ex ship. Miiki Lump.....\$11.50 to \$11.00 ex ship, nominal. Moji Lump.....\$6.50 to \$10.00 ex ship, weak. The arrivals since the 12th have been 48,850 tons Japanese coal; 5,390 tons Cardiff coal; 4,000 tons Australian coal, and 9,200 tons Hongay coal.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

SHANGHAI, 17th September (from Messrs. Noel Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report):—Although business during the past week has been far below what it would have been in any ordinary year, there has been more movement in the market. This is at first apparent from the increased deliveries and the general better tone of enquiry emanating from the Tientsin dealers. So far we have not heard of much business by importers, but we have been told that Native holders have disposed of about 4,500 bales American goods for shipment this year. We have not been informed what prices were paid, but we imagine they were very low, otherwise the Native dealers would not continue the policy they have lately adopted of selling sound American goods by public auction where the prices obtained have been far from good. The Chinese defend their action by saying they must have money to meet the demands of the Native Banks. From Newchwang there has been some enquiry, but the prices offered are too low to admit of business. Chefoo is doing little, but the River Port markets continue active, and have been taking good quantities of Indian spinnings, prices for which are decidedly stronger. The Manchester market is stronger than ever, and the higher rates now asked are checking business although we have been told some manufacturers have sold their production up to the end of January next. From New York there is no news, but with the price of the raw staple as it is at present lower prices can scarcely be looked for. Cotton in Liverpool has advanced to 6.72d. and we believe is fairly strong at that figure. The Cotton yarn market has been fairly active and sales of 8,479 bales have been made, and it is pleasant to note that Tientsin took a fair proportion of the 3,619 bales No. 10s which were sold. Piece Goods.—There has been rather more doing this week and we have been told that business has been done from in 8.4-lb. Grey Shirtings, 10-lb. Grey Shirtings and Turkey Reds, but we are unable to give the prices at which the business was done. We also hear that a fair business has been done in Heavy Grey Shirtings, Continentals and Fine White Shirtings, for shipment during December, January and February, while business in indents for Fancy Goods has also taken place. The improved tone of the market is evident at the auction sales, where prices showed a general tendency to advance.

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 25th September.

Bears	\$3 1/2 @ 3 1/2
Camphor (China)	\$96 @ 97
" (Formosa)	\$108 @ 120
Cassia (First quality)	\$25
" (Second) "	\$16 1/2
" Oil	\$175
Cloves	\$12 @ 24
Fennel Seed Oil	\$330
Galangle	\$3 @ 6
Garlic	\$4
Glue	\$29 1/2
Grapes	\$19 @ 21
Ivory	\$210 @ 600
Kismiss	\$19 @ 21
Olibanum	\$6 @ 28
Rosa Oil	\$70 @ 215
Saltpetre	\$10 1/2 @ 11 1/2
Sandal wood	\$23 @ 30
" Oil	\$200 @ 370
Senna Leaves	\$1 @ 8
Sugar Candy	\$11 @ 11 1/2
Vermilion	\$87 1/2
Wax	\$40 @ 45

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

MANILA.—The latest quotations by mail are:—

HEMP.	
Albay, current	\$18 1/2
Leyte, do.	\$22 1/2 to 23 1/2
Daet, do.	\$16
Na. Caceres (Catanduanes)	\$19
Sorsogon	\$23.00
SUGAR	
Boilo No. 1	\$5 1/2
" 2	\$4 1/2
" 3	\$4 1/2
" Assorted	\$4 1/2

CORRA.		
Sun-dried	\$6.25	
Laguna	\$5.75	
F. M. Manila	\$6.25	
RICE.		
Saigon Blanco	\$7.25	
Rangoon	\$7.25	
LEAF TOBACCO.		
Isabela, 1901 — 1st to 5th class	per quintal	\$15 to \$42
Cagayan " " " "	"	\$11 " \$38
Isabela, 1932 — " " " "	"	\$16 " \$36
Cagayan " " " "	"	\$10 " \$32
Barili 1st class. Few stocks offered		\$13.50
" 2nd "		\$11.00
" 3rd "		\$9.50
Abra, Norte. No stocks.		
Union. " "		

HANKOW, 16th September. — The prices are quoted for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

Cowhides, best selected	Per picul.	Tls. 35.00
Do., seconds	"	30.00
Buffalo hides, best selected		
Do., do. 10/35 lbs. }	"	24.00
Do., do. 35/60 " }	"	
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour, average 2 lbs., 50 p.c. short, 30 p.c. med. and 20 p.c. long hair		62.00
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each		11.00
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi		14.50
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu		13.50
Green China Grass, Szechuen		12.50
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow		12.40
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchew and/or Macheng		12.30
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	Tls.	12.50
Animal Tallow		12.00
Gallnuts, usual shape		22.00
Do., Plum do.		23.00
Feathers, Grey and/or White Duck		19.75
Do., do. do. Wild Duck		24.50

Per steamer Kintuck, sailed on 16th September. For Marseilles:—50 bales waste silk. For London:—Tea 379 boxes at Amoy, particulars unknown; 228 packages at Amoy, particulars unknown; 530 boxes Scented Caper (12,180 lbs.) 1,000 cases canned salmon, 35 cases palm leaf fans, 5 cases human hair, 307 cases preserves, 150 cases shells, 37 cases cigars, 10 cases bristles, 68 packages chinaware, &c. 59 packages hides, 19 packages canes, 819 bags gum, 3,080 bales hemp, 450 casks preserves. For London option Glasgow:—500 casks preserves, 2,250 cases preserves. For Glasgow:—50 casks preserves. For Manchester:—50 bales waste silk. For Hamburg:—5 cases shells. For Antwerp:—250 bales hemp, 10 bales canes, 68 packages mats, &c. For Various Ports:—59 packages sundries.

Per steamer Tonkin, sailed on 22nd September. For Marseilles:—160 bales raw silk, 180 bales waste silk, 27 cases silk, 3 cases effects, 7 packages hair, 50 packages canes. For Lyons:—375 bales raw silk. For St. Chamond:—30 bales raw silk.

JAPAN'S FOREIGN TRADE.

The aggregate foreign trade of Japan for August this year shows an increase of 50 per cent. above the trade for August of last year, though while there was a slight excess of Exports for August last year, there is this year a small excess of Imports. Under the head of Exports for last month a striking increase is noticeable in Cotton Yarns and Tea, the value of Yarn exported last month being Yen 3,899,689, against Yen 1,297,657, for the corresponding month of last year; and that of Tea being Yen 2,215,227, against Yen 1,438,635. The figures for Raw Silk also show a great increase, the quantity exported being over a million kin, valued at Yen 10,430,087; in the corresponding month of last year the value was three millions less (Yen 7,302,969). The export of Camphor for the month slightly declined, the quantity amounting to Yen 237,846 in value. The foregoing figures are the most noticeable features of the Exports headed Manufactured Articles half wrought. Of Manufactured Articles, Silk Tissues, habutai, form the most important export in point of value, and a substantial increase is recorded, the amount exported being valued at Yen 2,257,150, as against Yen 1,674,289 for August 1902. There are several decreases in the quantity of Manufactured Articles exported, and the total value of this section of exports is only slightly in excess of that for August of last year. In Raw Products the quantity of Coal and Copper exported shows a substantial increase. Owing to a drop in the

market, the export of Rice considerably exceeded that of the same month last year. Raw Cotton heads the list of imports, and is also first in point of importance, being valued last month at Yen 5,716,686, against Yen 3,331,611 for August last year. Rice still continues to come into the country in large quantities, the value imported being slightly in excess of four millions, the exact figures for last month being Yen 4,272,548, contrasted with the value of Yen 988,025 imported in August 1902. It will be seen that the quantity of Bar and Rod Iron and Other Iron and Steel brought into this country has increased by nearly 100 per cent. Woollens and Worsteds show good increases, while Mousselines, Italian Cloths, and Flannels have fallen off. The value of Brown and White Sugar imported during last month was Yen 2,764,310, against Yen 1,649,266 in August last year. A small increase is recorded in Kerosene Oil. The total value of Exports for the first eight months of the year amounts to Yen 179,549,402, against Yen 151,073,133 for the same period last year. Imports for the eight months reach a value of Yen 225,594,222, against Yen 174,120,687 for the corresponding period of 1902. The excess of Imports over Exports for the eight months now amounts to Yen 46,044,820, while for the same period last year the excess was only Yen 23,117,554. As pointed out in previous comments, the great bulk of this excess, however, is accounted for by Rice, which was imported to the value of Yen 46,247,767 this year, against Yen 6,678,343 for the corresponding period last year.—Kobe Chronicle.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 24th September, 1903. — The market still rules inactive with but slight fluctuations and no business of any importance to report.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai after small sales at \$635 are on offer at \$632½ without finding any but small buyers. The London rate has improved to £65 10s. Nationals are in demand at \$28½ without bringing any shares on the market, and probably buyers would pay \$28½ for shares.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have been placed in small lots at \$515, \$520 and \$525 closing at the last rate. China Traders have improved to \$61 without bringing any shares on the market, the stock closing in demand at that rate. Cantons have found small buyers at \$182½. Yangtszes and North Chinas unchanged and without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—China Fires have been in request and have changed hands at \$88, \$83 and 89 closing steady at the latter rate. Hongkongs unchanged and without business.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been negotiated at \$32½ and \$32½, closing with buyers at the former rate. Indos remain quiet with but a small business at \$86½ and \$86. Douglases have been on offer during the week at \$37½ and after small sales remain on offer at that rate. China and Manilas and Star Ferries continue neglected at quotations with no sales to report. Shell Transports have been on offer all the week at £1 1s. 6d., without inducing buyers to come forward.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars after further small sales at \$100 have declined to \$98 on time. A few lots changed hands at \$101 for October, \$102 for November, \$103 and \$103½ for December. Forward sellers at lower rates rule the market at time of closing. Luzons remain unchanged and without business.

MINING.—The market has been entirely neglected and we have no business to report.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—A few small sales of Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been effected at \$207 and \$206 for cash, and at \$215 for January delivery, market closing steady at \$206. Kowloon Wharves have been placed at the improved rate of \$87 and more Shares are wanted at that rate. Amoy Docks remain unchanged and without business. The latest quotation from Shanghai for Farnhams is Tls. 136.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been placed at \$153 and close with buyers at \$152½. Hongkong Hotels have found further buyers at \$145 and close in demand at that rate. Humphreys Estates after sales at \$10½ and \$10½ close steady at the latter rate. No further business to report under this heading.

COTTON MILLS.—No business to report but Hongkong Cottons could be placed at \$14½.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have improved to \$22½ with probable buyers. Watsons have changed hands at \$14½. China Providents at \$9½ and Watkins at \$8. No other business under this heading has come to our notice.

MEMOS.—Douglas Steamship Company, Limited, ordinary yearly meeting on the 26th inst., Union Insurance Society ordinary yearly meeting on the 8th October; transfer books closed from 28th inst.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai ..	\$125	{ \$632½, sellers L'don, £65. 10s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	28	\$28½, buyers
B. Shares	28	\$28½, buyers
Found. Shares	21	\$10.
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	21	\$5½, sellers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$40, sellers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$12	\$9½, sellers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$20	\$5, buyers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9½, sales
China Sugar	\$100	\$98, sellers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited.	\$500	\$250, buyers
Philippine Tobacco Trust Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$18, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 35, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 40, sellers
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 40, buyers
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 160.
Hongkong	\$100	\$14½, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$12.
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$47½.
Green Island Cement.	\$10	\$22½, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$40.
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric {	\$5	\$7, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$320, sellers
Hk. Steam Water boat Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$15½, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$145, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$250, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$87, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$145, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$206, sellers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$182½, buyers
China Fire	\$60	\$89, buyers
China Traders'	\$25	\$61, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$325, sellers
North China	\$25	Tls. 225, sellers
Straits	\$20	\$1, buyers
Union	\$100	\$525, buyers
Yangtsze	\$60	\$135, buyers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$153, sales
Humphreys Estate.	\$10	\$10½, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$35, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$50½, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$10, sellers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$15, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$600, sellers
Jelebu	\$5	50, cent, sellers
Punjom	\$11	\$1.65
Do. Preference	\$1	30 cents
Raub	18/10	\$8½, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$8½	\$37½
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$57
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$9, sales & sellers
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$19, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$55	\$14, sellers
H., Canton and M.	\$50	\$37½, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	\$15	\$32½, buyers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	\$10	\$86, sellers
Star Ferry	\$1	\$1. 2s. 6d. sellers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co., Ltd.	\$5	{ \$26½, sellers \$16½, sellers
Shanghai and Hongkong Dyeing and Cleaning Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 186
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$50	\$50, nominal
United Asbestos	\$5	nominal
Do	\$4	\$9.10
Do	\$10	\$200
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$25, buyers
Watkins Ltd.	\$10	\$8, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$14½, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI 18th September.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report).—We have only a limited business to report for the week under review. Rate generally have remained fairly steady, but at closing, prices are weaker. This is largely due in anticipation of the Settlement at the end of this month. Banks.—H. and S. Banks.—Business has been done locally at \$630 and 611, the drawing rate from Hongkong and Shanghai being at the parity of 73. Sales of Nationals are reported at \$28. T.T. on London is quoted to-day at 2/6 1/4. Marine and Fire Insurance.—No business reported locally. Buyers of Unions at \$497 1/2 in the South, and Traders at \$60; sales are reported of Yangtzees at \$135. Cantons offering at 182. Shipping.—Indos are improved; sales were effected early in the week at Tls. 61 and 63 1/2 December, rising on the 15th to sales 62 1/2 for this Settlement and 64 December. On the 16th shares were placed at 62 1/2 November, 62 1/2 and 63 December. The market closes quiet at 63 cash and 63 December. Shanghai Tug and Lighters.—A fair business has been done in these at Tls. 60 for the ordinary, and 52 1/2 for the preference shares. The market is steady at this rate. Dock and Wharves.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co.—These opened at the beginning of the week with cash sales at Tls. 136 and 142 1/2 December. On the 14th and 15th September, shares were placed at 137 1/2 and 139, with sales again at 142 1/2 December. On the 16th the cash rate rose to 139/140 136 1/2 September and 142 1/2 December. On the 17th the cash rate fell to 136 1/2, and 136 cash and Sett. and 141 and 141 1/2 December. The market closes with sellers at the e rates. Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have changed hands at \$210. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves.—We have to record a considerable rise in this stock; business opening at 225, rising to 230 and 240 for cash, with sales for December at 245; the market closes firm at these rates. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves.—Are wanted at \$86 ex. div. Sugars.—Chinese are wanted at \$95 in Hongkong.—Luzon have been sold at \$11. Mining.—Weihaiwei have been placed at \$20 for \$20 p. u. Kaipings at Tls. 7. Industrial.—Maatschappij, &c., in Langkats.—Although we have a considerable number of quotations, the bulk of business done has been limited. On the 11th the market opened sales at Tls. 272 1/2 cash and September, 2 5 October. On the 12th 275 cash, on the 14th at 275 set, 280 cash, 280 October, and 287 1/2 December. On the 15th the Company paid a further interim dividend of Tls. 7 1/2 per share. On that day shares were placed at 272 1/2 and 270 September, ex. div. All further quotations reach ex. div. Tls. 277 1/2 October, and November, 282 1/2 and 280 December. On the 16th at 207 1/2 cash, 282 1/2 cash and 265 September, 275 October, 288 and 277 1/2 December. On the 17th cash shares were placed at 267 1/2 and 265 with sales at 277 1/2 and 280 December. Cash shares could be had at 265 and December, at 277 1/2. Sumatras have been placed at Tls. 50. Cotton Stocks.—No business is reported with the exception of a transaction in Ewos at Tls. 35. China Flours have been placed at Tls. 62 1/2 cum new issue. Majors have been placed at \$40, and Shanghai Gas at Tls. 109. Stores and Hotels.—Hall and Holtz have been placed at \$34. Astors at Tls. 30 1/2 and Hotel des Colonies at Tls. 15. Miscellaneous.—No business reported in Stocks under this heading.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 25th September.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/10 1/4
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10 3/4
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10 1/8
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10 1/16
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10 1/16
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10 1/16
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	23 1/2
Credits 4 months' sight	237 1/2
ON GERMANY.—On demand.....	
ON NEW YORK.—Bank Bills, on demand	45 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	46
ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer	
Bank, on demand	138 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	
Bank, on demand	138 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	
Private, 30 days' sight	73 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	
ON MANILA.—On demand	nominal
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand.....	
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	112
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	1 1/4 p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	1 p.c. pm.
ON HONGKONG.—On demand	62 1/2
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10.9
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	58.50
BAR SILVER, per oz.	27 1/8

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.—Borneo, *Glaucus*, Pak Ling, Inaba Maru.
 FOR LONDON.—Ballaarat, Borneo, Pak Ling, *Glaucus*, Agamemnon, Inaba Maru.
 FOR LIVERPOOL.—Indomeneus.
 FOR MARSEILLES.—Agamemnon, Australien, *Glaucus*, Pak Ling, Inaba Maru.
 FOR BREMEN.—Zieten.
 FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Abessinia, Brigavia, Saxonia.
 FOR TRIESTE.—F. Ferdinand.
 FOR NEW YORK.—Nordkyn, Salsuma.
 FOR PORTLAND (OR).—Indravelli.
 FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—Calchos, Kaga Maru, Lyra.
 FOR VANCOUVER.—Empress of China, Tartar.
 FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—Chingtu, Yawata Maru, Guthrie.
 FOR BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.—Hiroshima Maru.
 FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.—C. Ayar.
 FOR SINGAPORE AND CALCUTTA.—Sambha.

SHIPPING

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

September—ARRIVALS.
 20, Amphitrite, British cr., from Yokohama.
 20, Eastern, British str., from Kobe.
 20, Gregory Apar, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
 20, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 20, Hipsang, British str., from Newchwang.
 20, Idzumi Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 20, Progress, German str., from Swatow.
 20, Pronto, German str., from Amoy.
 20, Wuchang, British str., from Iloilo.
 21, Andalusia, German str., from Shanghai.
 21, Annam, French str., from Marseilles.
 21, Benlawers, British str., from London.
 21, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 21, Glenshiel, British str., from London.
 21, Kanagawa Maru, Jap. str., from London.
 21, Knias Gortschakow, Rus. str., from Moji.
 21, Koun Maru, Japanese str., from Kobe.
 21, Mazagon, British str., from Bombay.
 21, Patrol, British cable str., from Amoy.
 21, Pingsuey, British str., from Shanghai.
 21, Shikano Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 21, Shaoshing, British str., from Wuhu.
 21, Tonkin, French str., from Shanghai.
 21, Ynensang, British str., from Manila.
 21, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
 22, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 22, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 22, Kaga Maru, Japanese str., from Shanghai.
 22, Phra C. Kiao, German str., from Bangkok.
 22, Taishun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 22, Yaneyama Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 23, Amara, British str., from Sourabaya.
 23, Clara Jeben, German str., from Hongay.
 23, Fearless, British cruiser, from Weihaiwei.
 23, Formosa, British str., from Canton.
 23, Huron, British str., from Moji.
 23, Keongwai, German str., from Bangkok.
 23, Kinkiang, British str., from Hankow.
 23, Lethian, British str., from Moji.
 23, Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
 23, Nor, Norwegian str., from Moji.
 23, Pakling, British str., from Liverpool.
 23, Perla, British str., from Cebu.
 23, Sishan, British str., from Saigon.
 23, Taisang, British str., from Wuhu.
 23, Telartos, German str., from Samarang.
 23, Unda, Norwegian str., from Moji.
 24, Mingo, German str., from Iloilo.
 24, Australian, British str., from Australia.
 24, Coromandel, British str., from Bombay.
 24, Hailoung, British str., from Amoy.
 24, Kweiyang, British str., from Chefoo.
 24, Lyra, American str., from Manila.

September—DEPARTURES.

20, Arnold Luyken, German str., for Swatow.
 20, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 20, Hangsang, British str., for Swatow.
 20, Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., for Kutchinotsu.
 20, Persia, Austrian str., for Calcutta.
 20, Tientsin, British str., for Foochow.
 20, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
 20, Trocas, British str., for Singapore.
 21, Annam, French str., for Shanghai.
 21, Guthrie, British str., for Kobe.
 21, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
 21, Hipsang, British str., for Canton.
 21, Michael Jeben, Ger. str., for Quinhon.
 21, Whampoa, British str., for Canton.
 21, Wingsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 22, Andalusia, German str., for Hamburg.
 2, Anping Maru, Jap. str., for Coast Ports.

22, Dott, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 22, Feiching, British str., for Shanghai.
 22, Gironde, French str., for Sigon.
 22, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 22, Idzumi Maru, Japanese str., for Bombay.
 22, Kashing, British str., for Shanghai.
 22, Kohsichang, German str., for Bangkok.
 22, Kweilin, British str., for Ningpo.
 22, Nanchang, British str., for Tientsin.
 22, Pingsuey, British str., for Liverpool.
 22, Progress, German str., for Tournon.
 22, Pronto, Norwegian str., for Port Arthur.
 22, Shantung, German str., for Singapore.
 22, Thea, German str., for Chefoo.
 22, Tonkin, French str., for Europe.
 22, Tosa Maru, Japanese str., for Seattle.
 22, Tyr, Norwegian str., for Hongay.
 23, Benlawers, British str., for Nagasaki.
 23, Clara Jeben, German str., for Chinkiang.
 23, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 23, Dunbar, British str., for Kutchinotsu.
 23, Else, German str., for Hoihow.
 23, Empress of Japan, Brit. str., for V'couver.
 23, Hoihao, French str., for Hoihow.
 23, Kinkiang, British str., for Canton.
 23, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
 23, Mazagon, British str., for Kobe.
 23, Namsang, British str., for Calcutta.
 23, Rohilla Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
 23, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
 23, Taishun, Chinese str., for Canton.
 23, Victoria, Swedish str., for Samarang.
 24, Amara, British str., for Singapore.
 24, Amigo, German str., for Shanghai.
 24, Andree Rickmers, Ger. str., for Swatow.
 24, Atholl, British str., for Sourabaya.
 24, Eastern, British str., for Australia.
 24, Glenshiel, British str., for Shanghai.
 24, Kanagawa Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
 24, Kweiyang, British str., for Canton.
 24, Loosok, German str., for Bangkok.
 24, Pakling, British str., for Shanghai.
 24, Tacoma, Amr. str., for Tacoma.
 24, Taiwan, British str., for Shanghai.
 24, Taisang, British str., for Canton.
 24, Taksang, British str., for Swatow.
 24, Wuchang, British str., for Iloilo.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Annam*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Messrs. Ullmann, Fignieras, and Aug. Gerin; from Saigon, Messrs. Kimaud, Vanzelle, Defaule, Jas Watson, and W. A. Railton; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Cox, Revs. France, Alexandre, and Gabriel, Sisters Jeanne Vaillant, Simplicie Lavergne, Amelie Parent, Marie Rouger, Gabrielle, and St. Jean, Messrs. Hauchecorne and Roné; from Saigon, Mr. Mezella; for Kobe, from Singapore, Mr. and Miss Morisaki; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Abily and infant, Messrs. Cros, Champoiseau, and Uguen, Sisters Sidonie, Cheophane, Croix, St. Henry, and Odile; from Batavia, Mr. J. de Sturler; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Ritchie and Mr. G. Carlos; from Saigon, Messrs. Guillemoto, Heon, and Ch. Gaucon.

Per *Tonkin*, for Hongkong, from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Story, Rev. Father Fleureau, Major Gordon Cumming, Miss A. Lawrence and child, Misses Blanche Clements, Milli Ascoli, Eva McDonald, Marjorie Tempest, and Grace Gale, Messrs. A. Tullet, Mary Lynch, Percy Haydn, Wilson Ellison, Harold Carr, A. Middleton, Wentworth Watson, E. Nable, J. Aaron, H. J. Hanry, Grouse, Smith, Bell, Demoulain, and Cunningham; for Singapore, from Shanghai, Mrs. Smith and Mr. L. Davis; from Kobe, Miss Luiks; for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Mr. E. Hohl; from Shanghai, Mr. Nigg.

Per *Australian*, from Sydney, &c., for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. J. Johnson, Misses Evans and Kinohela, Sir David Evans, Messrs. J. P. T. Evans, C. J. Bainbridge, R. Oxley, A. E. Parr, W. H. Power; from Brisbane, Mr. D. Ross; from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Maccondray, Captain and Mrs. Sage and son, and Captain and Mrs. Pickett, two children, Messrs. P. Dudley, Carter, Glesson, Smith and Alhbrum.

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